

code
red

P A R A G O N 2 0 0 2

c0de
red

a total school lockdown
executed in an emergency

the new Mountain Dew
with a rush of cherry flavor

the set of standards that
shape and define Munster
High School

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Face to Face

Bound at the knees, freshmen Christina Domenico and Michelle Becka clumsily stumble toward the finish line during the Homecoming pep rally. Since the other three classes disqualified themselves by cheating, the freshmen won the three-legged race. Pepsi in hand, Alexis Boyan, senior, socializes at lunch, while, in honor of her birthday, Katie Szewka, sophomore, receives a bunch of balloons from her friends. At the Homecoming game, Michelle displays patriotic pride by wearing red and white and dying her hair blue. Through artwork on his face, Zach Lambert, senior, declares his readiness for the Homecoming game.



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c0de red

P A R A G O N

2 0 0 2

shades of pride

Complete with bandanna, sunglasses, white ribbon and backwards visor, Waheed Nassimi, senior, speaks his individuality in more than one way. Intently

staring down a microscope, Brittany Bohling, freshman, examines reproduction in a eukaryotic cell during biology. "It was cool to see things you didn't usually see," Britney said. Arms

wrapped tightly around her teddy bear, Sarah Papin, senior, rests her chin on the stuffed animal she brought in for the Creative Writing

children's stories unit. Before the Homecoming parade begins, Kristina Standley, freshman, puts

finishing touches on the Dance Team's spirit truck. "I was glad to be part of a group that showed a lot of spirit when not many did," Kristina said. Cheeks full of air, Robert Schoon, sophomore, blares

his trumpet and keeps in formation with the Marching Band at the

Homecoming game.



“When we found out we won, I was proud. Our class came together to show how much spirit we actually had.”

Liz Anderson, junior

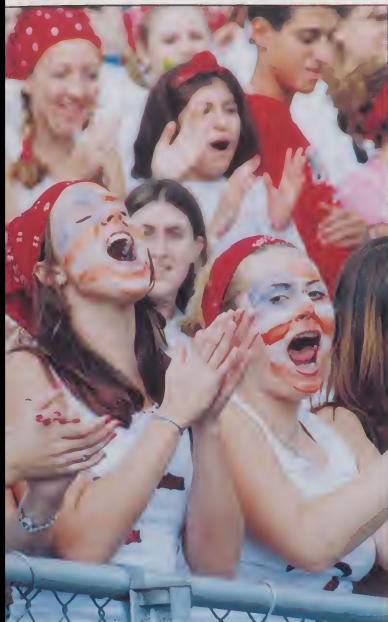
code red

It's a phrase you heard a lot.

As you crouched in the back corners of a dark classroom huddled with 20 other students, you weathered a mandatory code red drill. After practicing the emergency lockdown firsthand, you thought you knew the meaning of **code red**.

Skimming through *Sports Illustrated* on a lazy Sunday afternoon to catch up on the Chicago Bears' 10-3 National Football League (NFL) Central Division Championship, you noticed the flashy red advertisements boasting a new Mountain Dew "with a rush of cherry flavor." After seeing the drink ads plastered all over magazines and on billboards, now you thought you knew what **code red** really meant.

Yet this phrase that echoed through the hallways carried a hidden meaning. While the other explanations still rang true, a combination of school individual and community standards fused to redefine **code red**. Our standards shaped the lives of 1,316 students and 187 staff members.



Juniors Liz Anderson, Lauren Treasure, Emily Hoban and Lauren Biel

● After the English Department invested in turnitin.com, the new anti-plagiarism website, you and other leary students thought twice about testing your **values** with phony writing.

● When the region's **social** alternatives spread with a new shopping plaza Town Square, you and your friends flocked to Panera Bread and Old Navy to savor a chicken frontega or track down a pair of low-rise flares.

● Your **involvement** in the relief effort for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington DC compelled you to empty your pockets for Student Government's white remembrance ribbon sale and shell out over \$1,000 in just one day for the Red Cross Liberty Fund.

● Down to the tenth of a point, you battled seven National Merit Semi-finalists and fourteen Commended Students or fought off crazed GPA fanatics to boost your class rank amid a sea of cutthroat academic **competition**.

● After dragging through seven hours of school, your day seemed just to begin. With no time for a breather, you dashed off to a meeting for the new Ping Pong Club then jumped on a bus to Merrillville for an away basketball game. At 9 p.m. you arrived home only to tackle an AP U.S. History essay and cram for three exams. You learned the trick to **balancing** school, sports and clubs the hard way.

You never really understood the true meaning of **code red** until now. More than a drill, more than a can of pop—the code lurked beneath the surface as an invisible guide that influenced your every action. You soon realized that **red means go . . .**



Juniors Victor and Mario Zerrgast



a step above

Perched on the hands of senior Paige Wagner and juniors Leslie Parker, Coleen Adley and Kristina Mueller, senior Becky Cribble performs a scorpion. "It took me a year to learn; you had to be really flexible," Becky said. In

Construction Processes Kevin Wadycki, senior, designs a park on the program Autocad. Flag at half-staff and dark skies looming overhead, students mull Homecoming spirit one week after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Poking his head out of the senior float, Nick Bularzik, senior, tries to escape. "I got caged in and had to squeeze through wooden bars," Nick said.

In control of the match, Mike Shinkan, sophomore, attempts to pin his Hanover Central opponent.



“When other countries forced children to work, America gave us the freedom of education.”

Mario Zerngast, junior

cultural comfort

On the Homecoming dance floor, seniors Gadeir Abbas and Farah Sheriff move to the music as senior Jennifer Lee watches. Farah and Gadeir wore traditional garb called a "lehenga" and a "shalwar kameez." "I didn't want to buy a dress since I had Pakistani clothes at home that I didn't get to wear often," Farah said.

family circle

Gathered around the table, Andrew Bridgman, sophomore, and his family play Monopoly together after school. Family activities provided Andrew with a chance to spend the day with his family. "I knew them better than anyone else in the world, and I loved them," Andrew said.



missing link

VALUES Feet cutting

up the dance floor,

hands folded in

midday prayer or eyes

fixed on their own

papers, students

demonstrate how

cultural, religious and

family values play an

integral part in

shaping their lives

Amongst the lively sounds of the acoustic guitars, violins and drums of a mariachi band, Art Insurriaga, junior, spun his cousin Diana Huerta, junior, across the dance floor trying to move in time with the fast-paced rhythm.

The spicy and authentic atmosphere of Spanish dancing illustrated Art's favorite part of keeping his Mexican heritage alive with his family.

"What I took from my culture was family values," Art said. "Family came first. I thought Mexican families were tighter than regular American families. My mom and dad had a high respect for their parents, and after seeing that I also had a high respect for my parents."

Just as culture shaped Art's values in life, other factors like family and religion impacted students' personal standards. These values often blended to form students' beliefs and created fun traditions.

All in the Family

For Zak Boswell, freshman, culture and family combined to form a long-standing tradition of an annual "Sausage Night." Each year Zak and over 40 members of his extended family gathered to celebrate their Italian and Yugoslavian ethnicity. During the three-hour process, Zak's family took 360 pounds of raw meat and made it into sausage, tasting it between laughter and storytelling.

In a crowded room filled with the pungent smell of hundreds of pounds of meat, Zak enjoyed bonding with his family. However, last year marked a change when Zak's grandfather died, who had founded the tradition and ran it every year.

"It was sad since he wasn't there," Zak said. "We were usually happy and laughing, but this time we talked more and told stories about him."

Other students valued the close relationships



meat and greet

Amongst spicy aromas and animated storytelling, Zak Boswell, freshman, hangs a link of sausage during his family's annual "Sausage Night." "We ate about 10 pounds, and each family took home about 25 pounds to dry into salami," Zak said. "The recipe was never the same. [My favorite part] was being with my family who I didn't get to see a lot."

movie man

Enjoying time with her brother sophomore Rob Franklin, senior Rachel Franklin watches his video of recreated scenes from Star Wars. Rob created frame-by-frame movies with his computer program Lego Studios. "I was close with Robbie," Rachel said. "It was easier as he got older because we were at the same school, so it was easier to relate."



that they formed with their family and looked to them for support.

Every Sunday morning sophomore Sarah Bradish's family went to breakfast at Commander. They tried to set aside some time every week to catch up on events in each others' lives.

"[My family was important] because without them I didn't know where I would have been," Sarah said. "My brother [Josh Bradish, senior] was my best friend; I could tell him anything."

Religious Revival

Religion and their beliefs played a significant role in shaping the lives of many students.

"[Religion] gave you something to believe in," Kate Mikels, sophomore, said. "I thought that was important. If you didn't have anything to believe in, what was there to live for?"

For some students practicing a religion entailed more than worship and prayer. Students discovered a way to learn, have fun and meet new people along the way through their faith.

When Michelle Peiguss, senior, went with her youth group to a national Lutheran convention in New Orleans, she not only enjoyed worshipping with 35,000 other teenagers but also explored the city and visited sights like the zoo and the aquarium. Her youth group also allowed her to stay connected with her friends from other schools who she normally wouldn't have seen.

(continued on 9)

culture shift

After converting to Islam, Olivia Kompier, senior, describes how her religious choice changed her life

"I was raised Catholic, and I was religious in the sense that I believed in it and went to church. I wasn't looking for a new religion, but I stumbled across Islam as I made more Muslim friends and learned about it from them. More importantly, I also researched it on my own. Every question I ever had about God and life was answered. In Catholicism I only believed what I was taught, whereas now I truly believed in what I practiced. Unlike other faiths, Islam dictated how to live all aspects of my life. It is very fulfilling to know everything I do was for Allah [God]. I have gained an ultimate peace through Islam."

peaceful prayer

In the library during lunch, Olivia Kompier, senior, performs the Muslim afternoon prayer, "zahr." "Though I had hesitated to wear my scarf [called 'hijab' in Arabic], I realized that what people thought didn't matter because I was proud of my religion," Olivia said. "From everyone at school, the general reaction was positive, but I also got a lot of stares. A lot of the people on the street thought I was Arab. When they saw somebody dressed like a terrorist, it didn't matter what race you really were."

caught red handed

"It was a memory work assignment. A kid had long hair and had earphones in that he was trying to hide. He taped the piece, but it went faster than he could, so he lost it in the middle. He just stood there and had the weirdest look on his face. He thought he was fooling me. So I left him struggling through the whole thing. Then I went up and pulled the earphones off; and he died, basically."

Mrs. Renee Kouris,
English teacher

test of honor

Hunched over her Biology test, Gina Christopher, freshman, tries to concentrate. Both science and English teachers used the LCI room to space students out to prevent any cheating. "If someone was bent on cheating, you probably wouldn't stop them," Mr. John Edgington, science teacher, said. "At the freshman level, they weren't really skilled at it; but by the time they were juniors or seniors, they became more sophisticated with how they did things."



fancy feast

After fasting for Ramadan, Ibrahim Najamuddin, freshman, talks to Mr. Rafiq Sheriff at a dinner to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr, the time when Muslims began eating during the day again.

raising standards

To show they haven't cheated by writing answers on their hands or arms, juniors Phil Koscielski and Patrick Scully raise their arms in U.S. History. Mr. Steve Lopez, social studies teacher, always ran this procedure before tests involving rote memorization.



12% think using Spark or Cliff Notes is cheating

42% think typing formulas in calculator is cheating

60% would cheat to get the grade they needed or wanted in a class

317 students surveyed



beyond belief

Hands folded, Ann Fabert, senior, and Scotty Vandersteen, freshman, say a prayer of thanks before lunch. "It showed we had a great faith in God and showed people we had something in our hearts that not everyone saw in school," Ann said. "But they saw it when we prayed."

deck the halls

Locating a prime spot to place another ornament, Renee Albrecht-Mallinger, junior, and her brother Daniel, freshman, decorate the Christmas tree. "My mom and dad were exemplary in family dedication, faith and virtue," Renee said. "My values made me who I was."

missing link

(continued from 7)

"I was into youth group because I had friends who lived in different towns," Michelle said. "It wasn't doing an activity that was boring. It was fun, and it was a time to hang out with friends and learn something related to my religion."

The Art of Cheating

Personal values also reflected students' individual standards in school. The temptation to cheat plagued students who weighed their expectations of themselves with those of the honor code. Values forced each student to view cheating differently.

"Anyone that put in the time and effort in to cheat successfully had squared themselves with the honest students," Zach Lambert, senior, said. "Cheating wasn't easy or free. Without the talent, drive and effort, you weren't able to pull it off. I had every respect for cheaters. I used to cheat as an alternative to working, but I would've rather done nothing than cheat. It was too hard."

Honor Bound

Not everyone took cheating lightly. For the English Department, the administration paid about \$800 for the use of turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism website. This site allowed teachers to submit papers and receive an originality report within 24-48 hours.

The report returned a copy of the paper with any directly quoted or paraphrased information linked back to its original source. It also received a rank of one to five with five as the most original. Teachers then decided if the student had blatantly plagiarized or just misused their sourcing.

"I didn't think it was worth the money," Amanda Spivey, senior, said. "Not enough teachers seemed to be using it."

From giving different test forms to making sure students cleared their calculator memory, teachers worked hard to strictly enforce the honor code. Mrs. Pat Premetz, Math Department Chair, made her Honors Pre-Calculus students sign honesty pledges saying they did not cheat in order to receive a grade for their take-home test.

"I signed the waiver [for pre-calculus] because my word meant something to me," Rachel Kevin, junior, said.

Culture, religion and family instilled in students a system of values they displayed at home and in school. External factors played a key role in forming individual standards, such as upholding the honor code. As the sweet, spicy smell of Mexican food filled Art's nose and the nighttime music started, he savored immersing himself in his culture.



festival of lights

As a part of Jewish tradition, Adam Hirsch, freshman, lights the menorah on the eighth night of Chanukah. "Besides receiving gifts, Chanukah allowed you to spend more time with your family," Adam said.

top five

ways to reject a date

- "I'm sorry, but I'm getting my foot amputated that day."
- "I'm converting to another religion."
- "I would, but I'm date-fasting."
- "It's against my religion to date until I'm 25."
- "I have syphilis."



homecoming hoopla

In the Munster Pool parking lot, seniors Lauren Eidam, Katy Stine, Erin Kolb and Jeni Shike goof off while waiting for the Homecoming Parade to begin. "Katy and I were there to ride with Jeni," Lauren said. "We were all good friends, so we just wanted to support her [being on Homecoming Court]."

kodak moment

Just after picking up her school pictures, Caito Muir junior, dares to take a look with Kate Hanas, junior. "[Her pictures] turned out really well, but she wasn't really pleased," Kate said. "She thought her hair didn't look right. I was trying to convince her that it looked good."



lounging around

Laughing and chatting, seniors Lauren Morelli, Cindy Wisniewski, Brian Young and Lizzy Ellison take a break on the benches. The Commons provided a central location for friends to meet and catch up on each other's lives between classes.

just 'fore' fun

During a round of golf at Wicker Park in Highland, Ryan Miller, junior, waits for Tim Platek, junior, to swing. Ryan and Tim not only spent extra time on the course to practice for next season, but they also used their common interest as an alternate way to hang out, according to Ryan.



downtime

Hand in hand, sophomore Mike Friedman and junior Janet Pleitner find a spot in the hall to sit down and talk. With no classes together but

many extracurricular commitments, the two only saw each other at school every other day when their lunches overlapped and Tuesdays and Thursdays during Count Time.



Scribbling in her notebook, Justine Bauer, sophomore, sat quietly in her driver's education class. Without warning Donny Yamtich, sophomore, burst through the door with flowers and persuaded the room of unsuspecting students to sing "Happy Birthday" to his girlfriend.

"When she put her head down on the desk and smiled, it was the best feeling to see her so excited," Donny said.

High school couples altered their social lives to go the extra mile for each other. The dating scene also gave students someone to lean on when stressed, according to Adam Hruskoc, freshman. For other students, however, flying solo hardly posed a problem.

"I was single and loved it," Mike Hawryzkow, freshman, said. "Dating wasn't bad, but you always had to be around your girlfriend and her friends instead of your own."

Some couples also dealt with rising feelings of jealousy. Melissa Leslie, junior, noted that students not committed to a relationship enjoyed the freedom to talk to whom-ever they wanted.

"Dating was a rollercoaster ride of emotions," Melissa said. "When single, you didn't worry about your boyfriend being jealous if you talked to another guy."

Despite some of its

SOCIAL
Single and
loving it or
committed to
another,
seeking new
acquaintances
or remaining
loyal to a few,
students
define their
social
standards
and expose
unconventional
ways to spend
time together

spirit crowd

Intently working on their class float, sophomores Kathy Van Der Giessen, Elise Eldert, Kelly McWilliams, Carly Grow, Carolyn Jania and Kristina Barney spend some rare weekday time together during Homecoming week. Homecoming provided a way for students to come together as a class. "Kathy and I were at swim practice, and we decided it would be fun to go work on the float," Carly said.

drawbacks, Donny preferred life with a significant other. He cared about someone enough to try and make their relationship work.

Beginner's Luck

After shoving each other into the swimming pool on a brisk August day, Tim Roy, senior, and junior Lauren Mikler, junior, climbed out. Shivering from the cold, they found only one dry t-shirt.

As the two huddled inside the shirt together for warmth, Tim looked at Lauren and asked her to Homecoming.

"It was like out of a movie," Lauren said. "The way we met wasn't something that anyone expected."

This unexpected invitation sparked a two-year relationship. Likewise, senior Stephanie Zeck said she never thought her fourth-grade crush would survive.

"I dared [Mike Rosen, senior.] to kiss his girlfriend's hand," Stephanie said. "When he did, she broke up with him and we got together. Dating for seven years created a closer bond between us than if we had dated for a short time."

Most students never anticipated exactly how they would spark a new relationship. Whether they met at a pool party or in an elementary school classroom, teenage couples chose to take their initial meeting to the next level.

(continued on 12)

close at hand

close at hand

(continued from 11)

Making it 'Clique'

Perched on a wooden bench, four young girls chirped and chattered together in the hall. When one minute of passing period remained, sophomore Jillian Balazs and her friends stood up simultaneously and walked to class.

Though she interpreted the saying "Birds of a feather flock together" in a less literal context, Jillian acknowledged some truth in the words.

"People formed groups of friends because they had the most in common with those people," Jillian said.

Not everyone viewed these groups in a positive light, however. Jon Wendell, senior, frowned upon students who kept others out of their circles of friends.

"Munster was very cliquey," Jon said. "People got a group of friends, and they were unwilling to let anyone else in."

Jon noticed a natural tendency in many students to find a crowd and stick with it. The size of the crowd made a difference to some people, such as Jessica Stalmack, freshman, who preferred a small group to a large one.

"I would've rather had a few really close friends because you could trust them with more stuff than with a bigger group of friends, where stuff would get around more easily," Jessica said.

Instead of tying himself to one crowd of people, Jon preferred a less stationary routine. He enjoyed the company of his best friend Justin Medrano, senior, but also spent much of his time roaming from group to group.

"Justin and I weren't really a clique," Jon said. "I hung out with him a lot, but I could get along with pretty much everyone. I was a social butterfly."

While Jon hardly settled down, Jillian liked to stick with her cluster of friends. Social butterfly or member of the flock, students found the societal lifestyle which best suited them.

The Strongest Link

In a crowded hallway, Jessica Stalmack, freshman, murmured something to her friend Kelly Fray, freshman. The two girls immediately turned to each other.

(continued on 14)

double trouble

With only one paddle between them, sophomores Billy Lewis and Chad Holajter defend their side of the ping-pong table. Besides the occasional study group, Chad normally had to wait for the weekend to hang out with all of his friends due to different schedules and lack of time.



friendly exchange

Sparing a few minutes between classes, sophomores Stacey Welsh, Andrea Lackey and junior Ashley Perez open Christmas presents. The girls exchanged such novelty gifts as modeling clay, Showplace 16 gift certificates and headbands from Claire's. "It was kind of a tradition and a nice way to reinforce the fact that we were friends," Andrea said.

flag frenzy

High up in the bleachers, juniors Diana Cox and Janet Pleitner, sophomore Lindsey Fillingsen and junior Gina Selet have fun at the pep rally together. Janet decided to join Color Guard because Gina, her best friend since third grade, introduced her to the activity.





sign of friendship

Early Homecoming morning Kaitlin Rebesco and Emily Stine, sophomores, hang posters in the Commons. Joining the Dance Team fostered friendship between the two girls. "Kaitlin and I met for the first time in eighth grade from being on Poms; then we got closer from Poms and from school," Emily said.



fresh start

To catch up on details about each other's weekends and classes, Nick Bakker, senior, girlfriend Kelly Montella, junior and friend Katie Gavin, junior, chat before school starts. "[Nick and I] didn't have time to see each other because we both worked," Kelly said. "It was important to have those times to catch up."

word up

the guide to translating terms only you and your friends understood

all the facts, the details

keep it on the dl (down low)

don't tell anyone

shady two-faced

sweet nice, awesome

bling bling money

whipped wrapped around

someone else's finger

S-O police

hard-core extreme, intense

what the dilla what's going on

straight good, alright

flip out go crazy, get mad

let's bounce let's leave



one of the guys

On a Saturday afternoon, sophomores Kate Laudermilk, Todd Dell'Aquila and Mike Shinkan stop at Starbucks for a bite to eat and a place to talk. Having many more male than female friends, Kate said she seemed to get along better with boys. "Guys didn't care so much about every little detail," Kate said. "They were more laid-back."

ready to rock

Eyes glued to the sheet music, Robbie Collins, junior, and Kyle Bieda, senior, perform a Jazz Band gig at Borders. After joining the traveling group, Kyle made new friends. "We started hanging out and got closer in Band together," Kyle said.



yoga party

With arms overhead, junior Kristi Skrundz and sophomore Kristina Kesely follow an instructional yoga video at junior Audra Peculis' 17th birthday party. Yoga offered a way to have fun with friends and to exercise the mind and body, according to Kristina. "You were concentrating so much on balancing that you forgot all your problems," Kristina said.



lunch bunch

During lunch seniors Marcos Campos and Dan Barton, junior Jessica Kovach and senior John Balicki take advantage of the free hour to study for an upcoming test. Jessica shared no classes with Dan, her boyfriend of three months. "All of our classes were close to each other," Jessica said. "Dan waited for me, and we walked together to every class."



slang gang

To show spirit during the Homecoming pep rally, juniors Jeff Edens, Brian Szymanski, Keith Partain and Gary Ghezzi form the word "YOODO" in the stands. "There was real no deep meaning behind the word," Gary said. "It was just something fun to do during Homecoming."

close at hand

(continued from 12)

After spending so much time with them, Jessica knew her friends inside out.

"My friends and I were all really weird at times," Jessica said. "I didn't want to explain [how we were weird]; it was embarrassing. We all acted the same way, and sometimes we could tell what each other was thinking."

other, exchanged knowing looks and exploded into a fit of uncontrollable laughter while crowds of clueless students walked by.

While some friends possessed a store of inside jokes, others shared the same extracurricular interests. Joining track allowed Lea Pupillo, senior, to expand her circle of friends permanently.

"I met some of my closest friends through track," Lea said. "Even after Stephanie Davis [senior] quit, we still remained best friends."

Outside the school's walls, students connected through personal hobbies. Renee Anderson, junior, began hanging out with certain people because of a mutual affinity for cars.

"I liked cars because my dad had always been rebuilding them since I was little," Renee said. "As a result, almost all my friends turned out to be guys."

Just as in the case of Renee, students wove friendships out of the common threads they shared, whether these stemmed from school or family.

While Jessica and Kelly recovered from their extended laughing spell, they noticed all the people giving them puzzled stares. Without another thought the two girls smiled, shrugged their shoulders and continued walking.





friendship ties

Arms behind her head, Michelle Miskimins, sophomore, pulls her hair out of the way so her friend Euna Choi, sophomore, can tie her bandanna on Homecoming day. Having traveled with Michelle from their fifth-grade classroom all the way to the high school cafeteria, Euna offered her friend a helping hand when she needed one.

deal with it

With a mischievous smile, Coach Marc Lehnere, English teacher, snatches an Uno card from the pile as freshman Carissa Grant and sophomore Justin DalCorobbo anticipate his next move. Speech meets required both competitors and coaches to kill time. "After my rounds I had to wait about four hours while the scores were being tallied," Justin said.



A Different Spin

As she approached a sharp curve in the road, Anne McShane, freshman, slammed on the brakes. She and her friends screamed in delight as the golf cart came to a jolting stop.

Though movies, shopping, friends' houses, sporting events, Borders and Starbucks topped the list of popular hangouts, students discovered more uncommon ways to spend their time. Anne and her friends deviated from the path of traditional activities.

"We went to Briar Ridge and just cruised around the subdivision on the golf carts," Anne said. "Because we were together, that made it funny."

When students ran out of innovative ideas, they began to look for different places to go. Jenny Nelson, junior, said she and her friends turned certain supermarkets into hangouts.

"We went to Meijer and just walked up and down the aisles," Jenny said. "That was usually after we'd already done something else."

Students who failed to see the appeal

just a moment

From dodging golf balls to yelling gibberish, friends recount their most entertaining moments

"Adam Kaufman [sophomore] was in a bunker at Woodmar Country Club, and he sank the ball. I was standing to the side, and the ball nearly hit me in the head. I had to fall backwards on my golf bag to get out of the way. It was a near-death experience!"

Ryan Miller, junior

"Red White, an inner-squad swim meet. Our team dressed up as 'super seahorses.' All of us wore tights, shorts and wife beaters with a Superman logo and our last name. We looked like idiots. It was totally uniting for the team."

Julie Kiekenapp, sophomore

"It was the best frustrating people with my friends. We'd point at things and say something like a foreign word that didn't make any sense. Then they'd stand there trying to figure it out for five minutes. Alex Gikas (sophomore) and I had a great time driving and asking people 'Which way to Wisconsin?' Everyone was really confused. We got a big laugh out of it."

Mark Hannigan, sophomore

of loitering in the frozen food section leaned toward more active forms of recreation. Paintball seemed the way to go for those in search of a unique and competitive way to pass the time.

"Paintballing was fun because it was competitive to play against your friends," Mike Strain, sophomore, said.

With a little originality, students uncovered new things to do outside the boundaries of typical hangouts. Whenever Anne needed a change of pace, she called up her friends in hopes of taking the golf cart for another spin.

INVOLVEMENT

Voices croon Christmas
carols and coins plink
into jars for the Red
Cross Liberty Fund as
students choose where
to leave a lasting mark

drawing the line

Rolling into the south parking lot at 10 p.m. with bags of white ribbons from Meijer, seniors Megan Schutz, Andrew Lautz and Joe Fray prepared to work. With scissors and tape in hand, they hopped out of the car.

Hoping to show sympathy for the Sept. 11 tragedy, the three students stuck 45 white ribbons on the buildings and the trees on campus.

"We thought it was the best way to show school-wide mourning for what had happened," Joe said. "The attacks made us more aware we were not invincible and that stuff could happen to us."

Following the disaster, students answered the president's call for patriotism by wearing red, white and blue to school. During fourth hour the school observed the national minute of silence to help remember the attacks. Subtle or bold, students found a way to keep memories of the heroes alive.

"Coleen Adley (junior) and I decided to make people think of the other end-of-the-already destitute situation in Afghanistan," Peach Roman-Lagunas, junior, said. "Making the bold statement

'Make love, not war' was just our way of showing the inhumanity of war and terrorism—just to make people think."

Samantha Watanpongse, senior, also recognized the time to show pride in her nation in whatever way she could.

"I felt like I had to do something after Sept. 11," Samantha said. "Even though it was small, the flag that I put on my car showed both patriotic spirit and respect for my country."

As Megan, Andrew and Joe hung the last white ribbon above the fieldhouse doors, they drove past the front of the school to admire their effort and the mark they left at school.

Fear Factor

Breaking down in tears, Natalie Clippert, junior, waited in line and tried to conquer her phobia of needles. As she clutched two empty

vials for the blood sample for cancer victim Amy Hayes, junior, Natalie depended on the help of her friends.

"I had a support group around me; even Amy was holding my hand," Natalie said. "The whole time I kept thinking to myself 'Oh, God, I can't be so selfish.' Once I did it, I had such a rush because I conquered my fear and helped out my friend of 11 years."

(continued on 19)

disguised donations

After catching sight of their costume, Aaron Lopez, Griffith High School junior, and juniors Gina Selent, Kris Duray, and Melissa Boeckman comment on their attire at an Oct. 26 Halloween dance for the Red Cross. Organized by juniors Jenny Nelson, Kelly Markovich, and Jenn Zavich, the group raised \$213. "If you worked, you came up with plans that raised money and left people walking away with a good time," Melissa said.





done deed

As Jack Stanley, freshman, waits his turn, Farris Pearson, freshman, looks away as nurse John Whiting takes a blood sample during the Amy Hayes bone marrow drive Oct. 20. Farris, along with over 400 others, decided to give a teaspoon of blood in hopes of finding a match to cure Amy's affliction with Ewing's sarcoma.

common ties

After scouring the lunchroom for donations to aid Sept. 11 victims, seniors James Olaosebikan and Lauren Ziemba pause to check their earnings while seniors Colin Kern and JP Hus finish their meal. Collaborating in support of the cause, Student Government and Project X worked for two days to make the white ribbons sold for \$1 during lunch. The group made over \$1,000 in one day by selling the ribbons.



red, white & you

"It didn't affect me personally because I didn't have anyone that I knew in the attacks. As an American, though, I felt the effects of it all and I was as scared as everyone else. As an American, you wanted to stand up for your fellow Americans and be united. When they were hurt, I felt hurt, too."

Emily E. Jones, sophomore

Chris Hernandez, freshman

Realizing the vulnerability of the nation or establishing close family ties, the school reacts to the Sept. 11 attacks on America

"Some people valued life more, and they appreciated things given to them more. People took a lot firmer stance on the abuse of power."

Ms. Valerie Pflum, math teacher

"It was something that I was going to remember and that I knew I was going to tell my kids about one day."

Nicole Rietmann, junior

holiday helper

Volunteering at the Salvation Army, Rachel Kevin, junior, places donated items into bags for the Toys for Tots program for the third consecutive

Christmas. "It was very important to help others," Rachel said. "If nobody ever helped anybody, what kind of world would we have lived in?"

q&a **animal** instincts

Taking her love for animals to a career, Jessica Ruiz, junior, expands her passion for critters of the animal kingdom

Q. How did you develop your interest in animals?

A. I had always found them fascinating, but I had yet to explain why. The more pets I had and shows I watched, the more interested I became.

Q. How long had you pursued your interest?

A. All my life—I used to hunt for snakes and frogs to keep as pets when I was little.

Q. What do you do to express your interests with animals?

A. I worked as a specialist at PetsMart in Lansing, IL. The term "specialist" meant that I worked with birds, fish, small animals, reptiles and amphibians. I worked there for a year, and I also had several pets including a black lab retriever Abby, a double yellowhead Amazon parrot PJ, two rats, a guinea pig, two tortoises, an iguana and a second dog, a Siberian husky Odie. I also looked into working for a veterinarian or volunteering at the Humane Society.

Q. What would your interest do for you in a future career?

A. I planned to be a veterinarian, and I hoped to major in either in biology or veterinary science.

book bound

Carefully searching for the right spot, Shannon Harvey, senior, numerically reshelves books at the Munster Public Library after school. "It took me a year to make the money to buy my car, combined with other money, of course," Shannon said.

posting up

Palm poised to block his opponent's shot, senior Richie White lunges in hopes of rejecting junior Terry Crouch's jump shot. White played weekly biddy ball games on Sunday along with 120 other students.



food for thought

Scouting manual in hand, Mike Liszka, senior, makes his way through Troop 535's Wednesday meeting while handing out fast food rewards for correct answers on scouting. With seven years of scouting under his belt, Mike gained the highest rank of Eagle Scout after constructing a flowerbed at Stuart Park. "The scouts were based on giving back to the community," Mike said. "We organized events with the Lions Club such as the pancake breakfasts and the steak fries."

canine companion

Dog toy in hand and future veterinary career in mind, Evy Watterson, senior, wrestles with Dyer Animal Clinic's dog Blizzard. Spending three days a week at the center, Evy turned her passion for animals into a senior-year job while attending to the clinic's animals. "Most people worked at restaurants or clothing stores," Evy said. "But I didn't think that was really rewarding. It was great when the animals jumped up to you just because they loved to see you when you came in."



drawing the

line

(continued from 16)

Over 400 students put aside their fears to give three teaspoons of blood for bone marrow testing. Those who turned 18 could test for a national registry, either Gene Screen or Life Support; yet many younger students insisted on contributing to the cause. Protests convinced the National Marrow Foundation to make an exception and allow all students to donate with parental permission.

"It made me feel so very blessed that people would do that for me," Amy said. "I was in awe that that many people showed up."

As Natalie squirmed in the chair, her friends tried everything to get her mind off the needle. They made faces, told jokes and even held a sheet of paper between her and her arm. All the creative distractions proved unnecessary when Natalie realized the procedure didn't hurt at all.

Start the Presses

While students' involvement in organizations often made them an active part of the community, some took individual steps to make their mark. As a columnist for the *Post Tribune*, Tim Webb, senior, used his weekly article to educate the region on current issues and major events facing the school and the Calumet area. Every Friday his work appeared as a first-person analysis.

"The paper said they needed a writer, so I signed up for the spot," Tim said. "I wrote to let the community know what was going on in and around the area. It was cool to make people aware of what really happened inside and outside of school."

Covering issues such as student involvement and interests, Tim took advantage of the power of the presses to spread his editorial insight.

Sunday Struggle

Extending organized sports beyond the school day, Munster's Youth Basketball League helped students contend with friends. With 120 total players on 12 teams in the freshmen through senior league, many students flocked to join "Biddy Ball."

"I got involved because it was fun and relaxing," Nate Holobowki, sophomore, said. "I thought that was why a lot of people joined. It was something I wanted to do for the next two years of high school."

(continued on 21)

special order

Pen in hand and ready to take down a dinner order, Josh Caddick, sophomore, keeps an open ear as a resident points out his meal choice at Hartsfield Village. "It was a good environment," Josh said. "Everybody gave the elderly a bad rap, but most of them were super nice."



order in the court

To help prepare her opening defense for her defendant, Carissa Grant, freshman, acts out her speech at Teen Court. "I wanted to participate because it was a really neat program," Carissa said. "It gave first-time juvenile offenders a second chance."

taking care

Beaming at the confused two-year-old Casey while bouncing six-month-old Camryn on her lap, Linda Landowski, freshman, babysits for her neighbors after school. "It was all worthwhile when they said they didn't want me to go home and asked about me all the time," Linda said.



putting in a good word

Baking a fudge cake for his elderly neighbors, Murad Omery, freshman, frosted his creation with icing.

Persuading her classmates to come to her benefit show in Lowell, Ariana Rebesco, senior, marched through the hallways with flyers. She raised \$550 dollars for the Red Cross.



Rolling squeaky carts through a crowded Wal-Mart the Football Team bought Christmas presents for underprivileged children for the 14th Annual Mustang Toy Roundup.

quick fix

Before the fourth-grade production of *Mt. Sinai*, Amanda Reuter, sophomore, mends the bumps in the girl's hair. Working at CCD every Wednesday allowed Amanda to gain experience for her future dream of being a schoolteacher.



chow down

After a long week at school, freshman Jason Chen, junior Casey Kolderup, senior Courtney Watkins and Gavit junior Alan Coxhead take a break Thursday night at their youth group. Every Thursday the group met at Westminster Presbyterian Church and discussed their problems.

senior song

During a Dec. 15 visit to the Dyer Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, Amy Parker, junior, assists a patient to her room. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) traveled to Dyer to sing carols. "Singing to them made me feel like I was truly lifting their spirits," Amy said.





drawing the

line

(continued from 19)

While many opted for Biddy Ball as a means of involvement, other students found community ties through outside interests. The pursuit of these interests to prepare for a career, however, sometimes led to active participation. Intrigued by medicine since childhood, Sheiphali Gandhi, sophomore, took extra time to develop her interest.

"Starting when I was three or four, I used to call myself Dr. Sheiphali Gandhi," Sheiphali said. "Because my parents were doctors, I was at the hospital a lot and volunteered. Even though I liked science, I wanted to make sure that I wanted to go into medicine for sure. I considered [attending] a five-week camp at Brown University to make sure."

Religious Touch

Light on cash, some students suffered through lunch on an empty stomach. Others had money but chose to fast under the rules of their religion. For one month from dawn to dusk, Muslim students abstained from food and drink from dawn to dusk.

During the holy month of Ramadan, Imran Abbasi, sophomore, lived through the fasting. This annual holiday in the Muslim calendar taught followers of the Islamic faith the meaning of religion.

"I got used to it," Imran said. "Islam helped me through decisions. It taught me how to fast and learn about religion at the same time."

Thursday evening through Sunday morning, other students participated in a variety of youth groups and Sunday schools. Followers of the Hindu faith hosted the annual "Festival of Lights," a holiday called "Diwali" in their native language which served to ring in the New Year. Many Hindu students gathered in the auditorium to remember the events of the previous year, according to Janushi Dalal, junior.

"Every year the Hindu community came together to celebrate religious events," she said. "We all prayed beforehand, and there were readings done by the priests."

Students active with their religion made a number of sacrifices while balancing their religious life with their social and academic life. Some students attended services during the week and maintained their homework as well. By crooning Christmas carols to the Dyer Nursing Home patients or lighting the next candle on the menorah, religious students kept themselves involved.



"Starting when I was three or four, I used to call myself 'Dr. Sheiphali Gandhi.' Because my parents were doctors, I was at the hospital a lot and volunteered. Even though I liked science, I wanted to make sure that I wanted to go into medicine for sure."

Sheiphali Gandhi,
sophomore

Crazed rivals battle each other for class rank
and a coveted spot on the infamous
Commons Wall of Fame. Toiling to top old
records and to defeat longtime foes,
students possess fierce competitive nature

shaking

rivals

COMPETITION

Oh my gosh, I got a 'B'; my parents will kill me when they find out!" Though an overstatement for a number

of schools, students discovered that receiving a 'B' upset many of their friends, according to Doug Boyer, freshman.

"Because of the large number of competitors for top grades, Munster was the only school I knew of where a student could never get any grade lower than an 'A' on his report card and still be ranked outside the 10-percent mark," Zach Holobowskij, junior, said. "It was ridiculous."

The atypical obsession with grades reflected a distinct academic competitiveness. Some saw the 46 out-of-towners who paid tuition to attend as proof of the school's academic edge. A unique set of academic criteria attracted these students, according to Doug.

"I had friends at Highland, and our curriculum seemed so much harder," Kaitlin De Cero, sophomore, said. "Our standards were higher. Sports and academics were taken more seriously."

Beyond the academic arena, a 17th consecutive Sectional title for the Boys' Swimming Team showed that students thrived on competition with other schools. A legacy of excellence set a precedent for athletes, especially in swimming, according to Matt Mikels, senior.

"Teams knew in swimming that we were very strong, and they couldn't take us lightly," Matt said. "Every team in our Sectional knew we could beat them."

The infamous Battle of the Bridge

against Highland typified a time when the whole school unified to cheer on the football team's 28-14 win over a rival.

"Highland was our biggest rival,"

Melissa Dieckelmann, junior, said. "Every year we tried to beat them. It was just something that we had to do."

Only through hard work and dedication did athletes keep their edge, according to Matt. The Girls' Basketball Team possessed one advantage over other teams, according to Kaitlin.

"Unity was a main thing," Kaitlin said. "We were all friends. Underclassmen to upperclassmen, it didn't matter."

The Speech Team found its biggest competition in Plymouth, the school who had beat them out for the State Championship two years in a row.

"[Chesterton and Plymouth] had the most people, and they worked extremely hard in order to be that good," Ashley Troumouliaris, sophomore, said.

Traditional practices like chanting the speech fight song on the bus motivated students to outdo their rivals. They discovered that their competitive nature propelled them to a Top 10 finish in Girls' Swimming and also let a 'B+' terrify them enough to work harder than ever before to snatch that 'A.'

(continued on 25)

surpassing the enemy

Shortly after receiving the hand-off, Victor Zengst (24), junior, rushes past the Lake Central defenders. Noting the importance of competitiveness in sports, Victor kicked off each game with the same mental attitude. "Every time I was on the field, I was determined not to let my team down," Victor said. "I did my best to get it done."



write angle

Pressed for time, Sharyn Goldyn, senior, competes in a write-off at the Indiana High School Press Association State Convention at Franklin College in Franklin, IN. "You could feel the tension being around so many writers striving for the same award," Sharyn said.





good as gold

Atop the podium at Girls' Swim State, Addison Del Rio, sophomore, accepts a seventh-place medal in the 100 fly. "You had to be competitive," Addison said. "At State, the difference between eighth and third place was within a second."

nerves of steel

To get ahead for the SAT, Julie Kickenapp, sophomore, anxiously awaits her results from the Oct. 16 PSAT test. "I had taken the SAT's in sixth, seventh and eighth grade through the Midwest Talent Search," Julie said. "I was competing with myself because I had to do better."



extreme **ends**

From laboring around the clock to taking bribery to a new level, students fantasize how far they would go for GPA perfection

"Study; kiss another guy."
Jim Phelan, junior

"Pay off the teachers to raise my grade."
Emily Montgomery, senior

"Get rid of the TV."
Andrew Graves, freshman

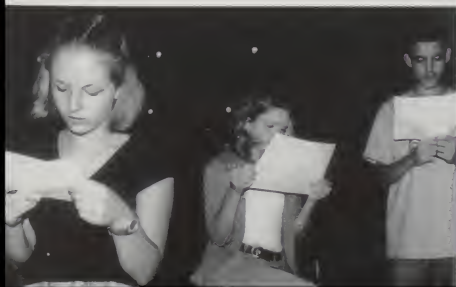


"Stay up all night long and study to where I couldn't study anymore. I couldn't bring myself to cheat."
Michelle McIntyre, sophomore

"I wouldn't do anything extreme. If I didn't, I didn't. It's not the end of the world. Life will still go on if I make top 10 percent or not. The most extreme thing I would do is study and work hard."
Lisa Rietmann, junior

"I would stop playing Playstation and the computer and do whatever it takes."
Teo Ellis, freshman

"Something not as extreme as what I would do for a Klondike Bar."
Colin Kern, senior



ready to run

Waiting for their clue, German 5 students senior Karl Spork and junior Janina Zins foresee flyswatting the right answer. "Instead of casually walking and hitting it, they would up and hit it," Karl said. "I hadn't had physical education in three years. It gave me something to do."

class act

Nerves in check, freshman Kristina Standley, junior Lauren Jones and freshman Chris Spedus glance at the script before auditions for the novice play *Out of Sight, Out of Murder*.

shaking **r** off **ivals**

(continued from 23)

match point

Surrounded by adults nearly twice his age, Steve Coulis, junior, adjusted a spark timer according to an experiment designed to measure the acceleration of gravity.

Electing to take Physics 220 at Purdue University Calumet, Steve received dual credit for a college and high school class. Taking the course also gave Steve a boost in his grade point average and class rank.

This drive to surpass the set standards forced students to compete in a variety of activities.

"There was no point in entering anything if you couldn't win," Trevor Clippert, freshman, said. "When you tried to succeed, it created that drive. If you competed well in sports, you were successful in life because life was competitive."

While some students chose to engage in situations like extra classes and sports, others failed to see the value of the added competition.

"Why waste six more hours to get an extra two percent?" Ana Sretenovic, sophomore, said.

Whether they dismissed the situation or stepped up to the task at hand, students handled the issue in the way that best fit their intentions.

After making room for AP Biology, Steve still recalled his 6 p.m. drives to the university. Going the extra mile, he exemplified a success-driven student aiming for one goal: to come out on top.

family feud

In the midnight silence, loud clicks echoed in the air. The puzzling noises sent neighbors looking for their origin until they found the guilty party.

To perfect the "12-hit system" for their Filipino martial arts lessons, Lee Coduti, senior, and his brother Matt, freshman, fought with long, smooth sticks during one of their nightly practices.

(continued on 26)

drum roll please

Focused on his drums, Jon Kutas, junior, rehearses with his band, the Begeesus Belts, for the Feb. 19 Battle of the Bands auditions. Joining a band with juniors Katie Schlesinger, Mike Stoffregen and Brandon Thompson, Jon practiced six times before the competition. "I had been playing since sixth grade, and I loved it," Jon said. "I decided to join a band because I felt a rush when I played for a large group of people."



more than a **grade**

42.9%
think their GPA
is very important

3.4%
don't care about
their GPA at all

28.4%
don't care about
their class rank

88.1%
think the
school's strength
is academics

the top three sports rivals...

- 1 Highland
- 2 Lake Central
- 3 Valparaiso

352 students surveyed



money talks

Soliciting over \$8,300 for Dollars for Scholars, Joey Manderino, junior, calls potential sponsors. Volunteers who raised the most won prizes. "They didn't just give \$20 Applebee's gift certificates to anyone," Joey said. "I had to work to earn mine."



clash of *spirit*

Packed like sardines onto the spirit truck, the sophomores take a break from the cheering war with the freshmen during the Homecoming parade. Though encouraged by their classmates from the stands, the freshmen reluctantly surrender to the

seniors in the annual Homecoming tug-of-war match. With a look of determination, Steve Garcia, junior, swiftly hops towards his waiting teammate on the opposite side of the football field during the pep rally potato sack relay race.



paddle battle

Zeroing in on the ball, juniors Mike Golemba and Max Ntiamoah take part in their weekly ping pong match. As a part of Ping Pong Club, students competed in various skill levels. However, ping pong offered a different type of competition. "Sometimes I took the games seriously," Max said. "But when it was all said and done, I realized it was just all fun and games with friends."

market madness

Tracking his investment portfolio, Steve Chovanec, senior, pores over the newspaper stock listings during the 10-week real-life simulation. Although the top team in the Region won a \$50 prize, most of the competition existed within school walls, according to Mr. Scott McAlister, social studies teacher. "The entire program was based on competition," Mr. McAlister said. "The kids always wanted to beat the other teams from Munster instead of a Clark team whom they never really met."

shaking **r** off **rivals**

(continued from 26)

"It was different competing with him," Matt said. "I knew him better than my friends. He was there to help even if it came with name-calling."

Matt and Lee's friendly competition didn't characterize a stereotypical relationship where siblings argued about the superior challenger. Whether in academics or sports, younger siblings tried to beat the feats of older brothers or sisters.

"My brother and I played golf ever since I could remember," Tim Piatek, junior, said. "He tried to keep up even though he was younger."

Students even compared themselves to the lasting legacies of siblings who had graduated. Alissa Rosario, sophomore, competed with her older brother by surpassing him in grades.

With the neighbors' protesting at the racket, Matt and Lee moved practices inside. This change saved their neighbors' sleep but left the brothers to pay for dented ceilings and broken lights.

class clash

Shoved into a U-Haul by about 35 seniors, a herd of freshman girls belted out songs to fight the eerie atmosphere as the truck drove off. Finally stopping in the middle of Wicker Park, the girls emerged and found the seniors ready to make them into chocolate sundaes.

"Freshman initiation was fun," Sheena Srivastava, sophomore, said. "They poured whipped cream, chocolate and nuts on us. It was fun because it was supposed to be torture, but high school wasn't as scary as it was supposed to be."

Seniors upheld tradition when continuing freshman initiation, according to Darius Bamboat, sophomore.

"They played pranks on us to show us that they were stronger than us," Darius said. "It was a tradition passed on to them. They had a right to do it."

Winning games or cheering the loudest proved that underclassmen could display just as much spirit.

"When we beat them in something, it showed we were just as good," Julia Konopasek, sophomore, said.

After the seniors hosed off the ice cream toppings, Sheena and her friends walked away dripping wet with their first taste of class rivalry.



wiggling out

In full judge attire, Ian Holloway, junior, keeps order during the vicious competition of the *Scarlet Letter* trials. "Only one team was guaranteed the perfect score, and everybody fought to the end to get it," Ian said.

professional prep

With the help of Steven Tyler, a local attorney, and Ms. Dawn Fessler, social studies teacher, seniors Bilal Omery and Matt Guanzon research and practice for their presentation in the "We the People" competition.



on guard

Ready to block any quick moves, Josh Martin, sophomore, and his sister Jillian Martin, senior, play basketball to work on improving their games. "When we were younger, it was a competitive thing," Josh said. "Now it is just to make us better."

book it

Briskly walking towards their next class, sophomore Matt Kasenga and freshman Jared Flahaven, review for their test. "Before a test it helped to look over it once or twice," Matt said.



head to *head*

In a student body famed for driven students and cutthroat academic competition, how do you shape up?

- 1) After finishing the four-chapter Civil War AP U.S. History essay test, your classmate approaches you in the hallway for answers. You...
 - a. tell him the teacher postponed the test.
 - b. divulge the question only after he agrees to give you the answers on the physics test.
 - c. hesitate and try to dodge the question.
- 2) Just before the buzzer sounds to start the 200-yard freestyle race at State, your Lake Central opponent misplaces his goggles. You...
 - a. focus on winning the race and not allowing the situation to distract you.
 - b. give him your extra pair, hoping to beat him fair and square during the upcoming race.
 - c. lend him a pair of cracked goggles so that water will enter and slow him down.
- 3) While auditioning for *Cinderella* in the spring musical, a fellow actress vying for the same spot asks you for advice. You...
 - a. offer your expertise, flattered she asked you.
 - b. politely say "no," attempting to get into character for your own benefit.
 - c. remember she stole the lead from you in the winter play *Ducks and Lovers* and tell her they want a Cinderella who raps instead of sings.

Total your score and find out where you fit:

1.) a. 2 b. 0 c. 1 2.) a. 1 b. 0 c. 2 3.) a. 0 b. 1 c. 2

0-2 Drop your weapons

You don't fight for anything. Not even the thought of you winning Student Body President would force you into a competitive mode. You would rather face torture than enter the dog-eat-dog world of high school combat.

3-4 Note to self

Sirens and buzzers wouldn't alert you to compete with others. From surpassing the A+ on last week's biology test to creating a higher mountain of noodles from Friday's all-you-can-eat pasta bar, you only compete with yourself.

5-6 Did I win?

Yes, you defeated them all as the most competitive. You keep score in every possible event from how fast you can pump gas to who's the first to the front to turn in a test.

keeping the beat

To prepare for their season, junior John Meacham and freshmen Matt Coduti and Marko Djuric stand at attention during practice. At district ISSMA, the band won a Division I rating advancing them to Regionals.



Eyes on the clock, Emily Yttri, junior, watched the minute hand crawl frighteningly closer to 12:15 p.m. At that fateful hour, the bell would cut short her scrambling to finish a Spanish worksheet and an English assignment.

Since Emily didn't see her Spanish and English teachers until fifth and sixth hour, Study Hall on Monday seemed like the perfect time to begin her weekend homework. A busy schedule encouraged Emily to wait until the last minute to start anything.

"I had so many activities after school," Emily said. "I was involved with my church, and I took piano lessons. Some days I didn't get home until 9 p.m. By that time I was too tired to do anything."

Other students identified with Emily's tendency to procrastinate. Spelios Bacoyanis, freshman, put off everything from schoolwork to chores. Comfortable with his postponing habit, Spelios hardly encountered any problems with his lifestyle.

"You had a lot to do in a small amount of time," Spelios said. "It kind of put pressure on you. But as long as you got the stuff done, it didn't matter."

Not all students could get away with putting their entire life on hold. After falling into the procrastination trap, Emily suffered the consequences.

"I didn't get the grades I could have gotten," Emily said. "I knew I needed to change."

All in the Timing

Darkness lurked outside the window as Sangeeta Bookseller, senior, quietly pressed the "off" button on her alarm. She turned on the light and slid into her desk where her calculus book lay open from the night before and resumed working.

An early riser by nature, Sangeeta woke up every morning at 4 a.m. to complete her unfinished homework and to exercise before school started. Above volunteering at Community Hospital, practicing for speech meets and attending Indian dance classes, she placed school as her first priority and tried to keep up with every task she took on.

Sangeeta gave much credit to her mother for fueling her drive to succeed.

"[My mom] helped me indirectly," Sangeeta said. "She was so perfect. It motivated me to be like her."

(continued on 31)

BALANCE

Juggling bustling
lives with work
and play, students
struggle with
friends and family
to divvy up their
weekly time

Living by the BOOK



pile up

Seated next to a towering stack of books, Robbie Collins, junior, researches in the library for his required Honors English II philosophy paper. Robbie usually succeeded at managing his time well with a busy schedule of both school and extra-curricular activities. "I felt relieved once I had completed everything," Robbie said. "I tried to work hard during the week so I could relax on the weekend even though it rarely worked out."

hoop dreams

Gathered around the net, freshman Marcus Hammonds watches freshman Joe Harker try to block freshman Matt DeRolf's layup at basketball practice. Practices allowed players to make certain mistakes, such as attempting a layup with the wrong arm. Although Joe found it difficult to allot time for playing basketball when he received large amounts of homework, he still enjoyed the sport. "Playing basketball made me happy, and that helped to relax me," Joe said.





Matter of MINUTES

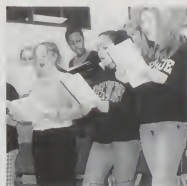
With only so many minutes in a day, Richelle Medellin, junior, mastered the art of juggling schoolwork with multiple activities. Wear her shoes for one day and follow an individual who maintained a delicate balance in her life.

Thursday, Feb. 7

2:17 p.m. The bell dismisses school, setting off the clock for Richelle's crammed after-school schedule.

3 p.m. After meeting in the choir room, sophomore Thea Logan, Richelle, senior Katie Paliga and juniors Amber Jernigan and Lauren Treasure sing their ISSMA competition song "Poor Man Lazarus."

4 p.m. As soon as practice ends, Richelle dashes to the auditorium for a rehearsal of the winter play *Ducks and Lovers*, where she manages to squeeze in time for starting homework backstage.



7:30 p.m. Richelle gathers her books and crosses the building to make her weekly speech appointment with Coach Jim Thorp.

8:45 p.m. Worn out after a long day, Richelle breaks free from the school and retreats home to attack her remaining three hours of homework.

Midnight With her assignments for every class complete, Richelle crawls into bed to sleep for six hours before she gets ready for another busy day.

leafing through

Absorbed in the latest JK Rowling novel *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Susan Valand, sophomore, utilizes some free time after school to catch up on her reading. "My mom bought me the book for Christmas; and one day I was bored, so I started to read it," Susan said. "It was just something I did when I was done with everything else."



Work versus PLAY

Discover whether you fit the description of the laid-back bum or the overworked school slave.

1) The clock reads 8 p.m. Sunday. What are you doing?
 a. cramming for a biology test you had a month to study for (2 pts)
 b. watching "Sex and the City" to steal some new fashion ideas (1 pt)
 c. getting ahead on vocab cards for the next two English units (3 pts)

2) Lunchtime! What's your plan?
 a. Oriental bar only comes so often! You bolt toward the cafeteria. (1 pt)
 b. Why waste time at lunch when you could get *Romeo and Juliet* Spark Notes online in the comfort of the Media Center? (3 pts)
 c. You join your friends in line but bring your chemistry notebook to review for next hour's test. (2 pts)

3) What's with your agenda book?
 a. You have turned the pages so many times they are falling out, and you bought a larger purse so the agenda would fit inside. (3 pts)
 b. What agenda book? (1 pt)
 c. You jot down which books you need to take home once in a while when you're feeling daring. (2 pts)

Calculate your point total to see if you lead a balanced life.

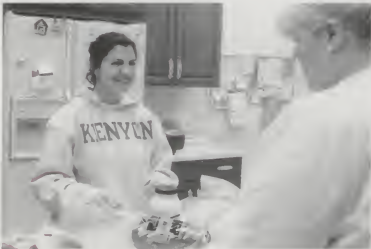
4-6 Don't worry, be happy
 Constantly forgetting to study for tests and letting your partner do all the work hardly fazes you at all.

7-9 Satisfaction guaranteed
 Congratulations! You know when you need to work and are content with your consistent effort.

10-12 All work and no play
 Take a break, you work-a-holic! It pays to relax a little while you wait for that Harvard acceptance.

lending a heart

With a smile on her face, Jessie Wilks, senior, prepares a sandwich to help at the Riley House hospice. Volunteering her time every Tuesday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Sundays when needed, Jessie worked to improve the quality of life for the sick. "If I had hospice one day and also had a lot of homework, I took my homework there," Jessie said. "But if I didn't get it done, it just didn't get done. I learned so much more from hospice than I ever could have learned from a book. Hospice was my priority."



pick and choose

On "open mic night" at the Muse in Lansing, Mike Stoffregen, junior, plays the Beatles' "Black Bird" on the acoustic guitar. Mike ran into difficulty committing to a band. "If there was a lot to do for school and we had a designated practice time, it was harder because there were deadlines to learn new things," Mike said.





(continued from 28)

While Sangeeta crunched numbers the minute she rolled out of bed, Joe Dwars, freshman, switched on the television and glued his eyes to ESPN Sports Center. As soon as he returned home from school at 6 p.m., Joe turned the TV back on and continued watching until he figured that he needed to start his homework.

Although participating in three sports consumed a large part of his time, Joe admitted he could have used his time more wisely.

"If I had known how to manage my time better, I wouldn't have been in such a rush," Joe said. "I wouldn't have been so stressed, either."

Lacking a proper balance in his life, Joe suffered the downfalls of his routine. Aware of the problems generated by poor time management, Sangeeta aimed to consistently meet her obligations on time.

"You got better quality work done," Sangeeta said. "If you waited until the last day and had to stay up until 5 a.m., you were concentrating so much on completing the assignment that you didn't care if it was good or not. You were so tired in school and couldn't think. It was a cycle."

Refusing to plunge into the cycle, Sangeeta followed her mother and set her priorities straight. Each morning Sangeeta rose before the crack of dawn as an early bird hoping to catch the worm.

Living by the BOOK

Ready for Recess

As Elizabeth Criswell, senior, arrived home she debated whether she should start her homework. Although the TV tempted her, she decided to stay on task. After slacking off for several years, Elizabeth learned that she had to work harder at school before going off to college.

"I did my homework first," Elizabeth said. "I usually put on music, but I always did my homework first. Then, when I was done I would go on the computer or go out."

While Elizabeth realized the value of placing "work before play," other students deviated from the rule and chose to dawdle instead. From watching television to delving into the new Play Station 2 video game, students chose multiple outlets to escape the pressures of homework.

(continued on 32)



bird watcher

At Petsmart after school, Jessica Ruiz, junior, gingerly places a parrot inside its cage. Many students chose to add a part-time job to their list of things to do in order to make some money.

cut above

Surrounded by a grove of evergreen trees, Jon Fisher, freshman, cuts the grass outside of his elderly neighbor's house. Jon discovered over the summer that his neighbor suffered from a disability and volunteered to mow his lawn. "I especially felt sorry for my neighbor," Jon said. "It made me feel really good that my work was not in vain but for a purpose."

balancing act

Stretched out as far as possible, Ashley Velchek, junior, practices yoga at Fitness Pointe after school. "It helped me relax, calm down, relieve stress and get away from my hectic schedule," Ashley said.

down to the detail

Delicately adding brushstrokes to her painting, Allison Crary, junior, takes advantage of some rare free time to work expressively. "I liked the balance of expressive work at school and disciplined work outside school in a structured class," Allison said.

at your service

Carton in hand, Ryann Perlinski, sophomore, pours milk at the Westminster Presbyterian Church pancake breakfast. Ryann wished to give back to the church she had attended for nearly seven years. "Religion was important because I always knew I could turn to my church," Ryann said.

play time

With the help of his younger brother, John Perkins, sophomore, works on advancing to the next few stages in his Playstation 2 *Final Fantasy VIII* game after school. "If I was close to beating a game, I wouldn't do my home-work," John said.



Living by the BOOK

(continued from 31)

"Work wasn't fun," Vita Lazauskas, junior, said. "I slacked off and waited until the last minute to do my homework. I watched TV sometimes or just did anything but what I had to do."

A number of students prioritized "play time" above school for various reasons. Homework simply did not present a pressing issue for those who carried a more laid-back lifestyle.

"I was really lazy," Todd Loden, freshman, said. "I would play video games or even lay on the floor and do nothing. It wasn't a big deal because I always got my homework done. I didn't have much work, but I always had plenty of time."

After receiving her acceptance from Purdue University-Calumet, Elizabeth realized she made the right decision in keeping up with her studies. Though she missed out on some relaxing time, she anticipated a few carefree months in the future.

Chilling Out

Surrounded by a pitch black and seemingly eternal forest one evening, Caitlin Hawryszkow, junior, brushed her horse Bailey while shrinking at

the eerie sounds of clattering wooden gates.

Four or five times a week Caitlin managed to find at least two hours out of her rigorous schedule of honors classes and extracurricular activities to relax and pay a visit to her horse in Valparaiso.

"When I went out there, I didn't have to worry about homework or deadlines," Caitlin said. "I went to get back to nature. If I was stressed, I would go alone. He was a good stress releaser. Otherwise, I liked to go with people because it was more fun. Plus, it was scary out there!"

Students like Caitlin sometimes chose solitude versus the company of friends during hectic times. Winding down at the end of the day or the end of the week created a balance to the piling stresses and complexities of students' lives.

"Music helped me wind down after a long, hard day at school," Martin Blumberg, freshman, said. "Sometimes I did stuff with friends like go to the movies or to Blade 'n Skate to socialize."

Although students spent much time with friends during school and on weekends, most recognized that family served a bigger purpose in life. Tosca Salvacion, sophomore, shared a unique relationship



Checking *the* SCALE

When choosing between family and friends, students follow their instincts, revealing the importance of each in their lives.

"Family was there with you all the time. They were there for you when no one else was."

Kevin Hoffman, freshman

"Friends could come and go, but family was always there. If you lost a friend, you made a new one. But you never lost your family."

Kristin Gorski, sophomore

"Family was part of you. Nothing could compete with that."

Bennis Pavisian, freshman

"I wouldn't say that one was more important. They were important in different ways. Friends provided company outside the home. Family was there for support."

Suman Rao, freshman



with her 60-year-old grandmother. When her friends had problems, Tosca found it easy to go to her young-spirited grandmother for help.

"I was really close to my grandmother," Tosca said. "She was just like any other teenager. I could talk to her about everything."

Other students thought that dealing with personal problems worked better alone. By placing others in the background, they had time to themselves free from distraction.

"I would walk around the block," Marnan Campos, freshman, said. "It let me forget about all the problems I had. I went alone because when you had friends beside you, it was a distraction."

Support Staff

The opposite case proved true for students who preferred the company of others. Hillary Gibbs, senior, typically let go of her problems with additional support of friends.

"I exercised with friends," Hillary Gibbs, senior, said. "I didn't like to exercise alone. I had no motivation unless I had friends with me. It cleared my head and helped me to concentrate on some-

thing other than what I was stressing about."

Students who possessed more control over their own stress levels had more spare time to balance with school. Taking time out to have fun proved worthwhile for Dan Chambers, senior.

"I was a very relaxed person," Dan said. "I tried to look for things to do to have fun instead of weighing myself down with negative and stressful aspects of school. If it was nice enough, I went and played golf usually with other people."

Even those who remained busy throughout the day managed to squeeze in a few moments to relax. When the opportunity arose, they rushed to take a much needed break when they could.

"I always had a book I was reading," Matt Domasica, junior, said. "Pretty much the only time I had to read was between two and three in the morning because of my schedule."

Between homework, practices and simple pleasures such as sleeping, students maintained a balance through a variety of outlets such as Caitlin's horseback riding. Depending on their personal style, students decided whether they needed isolation or the company of friends to unwind.

time crunch

Working away on a newspaper layout, juniors David Watson and Connie Kuo use PageMaker to design their pages on the computer for *Crier*. Journalism proved a time-consuming commitment for some. "I tried to prioritize things I had to do by managing my time," Connie said. "I had a schedule to follow so I met certain personal deadlines."

work in progress

Intent on the task at hand, Drew Albertson, sophomore, completes an assignment for Intro to 2D Art. Drew enjoyed creating cartoons even outside of class as a way to escape the monotony of an average school day. "When I was bored at school, I just picked up my notebook and started drawing," Drew said. "It took me away from my homework and let me have a little fun during school."

more than an act

making a scene

Behind handmade masks seniors Colin Kern and Sarah Papin act out a scene from William Shakespeare's *Oedipus Rex* using the comic book characters Calvin and Hobbes.

Early Homecoming morning Tom Lee, senior, meticulously applies face paint onto Brian Hayes, sophomore. "It was just one of those annual traditions I never minded; I just couldn't wait until I was a senior," Brian said. On Senior Night Tony Calabrese (61), junior, tackles the Gary Roosevelt quarterback. To psyche up the student body for Homecoming, Lindsey Steele, sophomore, floats balloons to the Commons ceiling at 7 a.m. with the cheerleaders.



Wandering past the Commons, you couldn't help noticing the school motto "**Pride in Excellence**" emblazoned on the red brick Wall of Fame. Below the signs hung an endless line of photographs recording 15 years of academic, athletic and artistic achievements that captured the essence of the school's **code red**.

● Dragging yourself out of bed at 5:30 a.m. on a Saturday, you and 33 other super fans hopped on a bus to Indianapolis to cheer on the Boys' Tennis Team at its fourth consecutive State appearance.

● At Student Government's Talent Show, you watched your peers break dance, perform stand-up comedy and demonstrate Filipino martial arts, raising over \$1,100 for Riley Children's Hospital.

● Bungee jumping X-Men action figures off of the fieldhouse bleachers in Honors Algebra 2 vanquished your previous misconceptions about the tedious process involved with linear equations.

● Gumdrops and licorice decorated your handmade German Club gingerbread houses, while the new Aquarium and Ping Pong Clubs sprang up and added atypical diversity to the school's 29 organizations.

Distinctions from the classroom to the field unmasked **code red** in action. By meeting and exceeding the standards, you embraced **pride in excellence**.

“ My character cared a lot about helping people who were in the institution. Since I worked with a disabled boy, I used that to help me identify with the character.”

Renee Albrecht-Mallinger, junior



Junior Renee Albrecht-Mallinger and senior Jodi Rosenthal

toga party

Clad in traditional Greek costumes, sophomores Molly Hanson and Carolyn Jania present Sophocles' *Antigone* to their Theater Arts class. "With fine arts [requirements], kids who normally wouldn't have taken it had their eyes open to other possibilities," Molly said.

foreign objects

After choosing to take on the life of a parrot for a day, Alyssa Hathaway, junior, presents a Spanish project. Alyssa recognized the advantages of the foreign language requirement. "There were so many opportunities for interaction between people who spoke different languages," Alyssa said. "It was cool that if I had the chance, I could be involved with people who didn't speak my language."



head start:

You want to graduate early senior year but wish you could squeeze more fine arts classes into your schedule. Core 40 lets you finish at semester without taking summer school.

Freshman year:

English 9, Geometry, Biology, Spanish 1, Modern World History, World Geography, Physical Education

Sophomore year:

English 10, Algebra 2, Chemistry, Ceramics, Spanish 2, Speech, Health and Safety

Junior year:

English 11, Pre-calculus, Physics, U.S. History, Spanish 3, Intro to 2D Art, Ceramics 2

Senior year:

Composition, World Literature, Government, Economics, Media Arts, Chorus

bowled over

Adding details to their projects, sophomore Steve Fell, freshman Lauren Guidotti and sophomore Jill Hanrahan make use of free time they received for finishing assignments early. Jill decided to graduate with the Core 40 diploma. "I was doing it mainly because I did not take Spanish 2," Jill said. "I went into [American] sign language because I was more interested in it. With Academic Honors you needed more language."



Surrounded by the melodic voices of first sopranos, Jackie Schneider, a sophomore who loved to sing, belted spiritual African tunes from "Shona Mass," a collection of songs Women's Chorus would perform at the next day's concert.

Six weeks of preparation finally led up to a concert for Jackie. She planned to sign up for four years of choir, a feasible goal for someone shooting for a Core 40 diploma. Jackie's requirement allowed her to take more flexible elective classes instead of a forced balance of mandatory academic courses.

"I didn't think balance was important," Jackie said. "We didn't need social studies if we wanted to be a doctor."

Even some students who could have graduated with Academic Honors still preferred Core 40 because it provided all the requirements they needed. Michael Thompson, sophomore, recognized disadvantages of Core 40 but knew they didn't interfere with his college plans.

"College selection was low, but I already had mine picked out," Michael said. "You didn't need fancy classes to get there, just basic knowledge."

Although Core 40 set a standard lower than that of Academic Honors, several students still regarded the requirement highly. Stacy Frank, junior, saw that the state's distinction of Core 40 gave it more value.

"Required classes came with any diploma," Stacy said. "If you didn't have a standard, how did you know you were doing well? Compared to some Illinois schools, Core 40 was a whole lot better. It was like Academic Honors to some schools."

For whatever reason students decided to aim for Core 40, they still recognized a need to remain a step above the general diploma. Placing their interests over a title of Academic Honors, students like Jackie met their personal standards.

leveling out options

With classes ranging from Sculpture to Botany, students opt to stick to Core 40 requirements, dabbling in the wide selection of electives or remaining at a more comfortable working level for their standards

fired up

Eyes level with the crucible, Justin Libak, sophomore, heats it with the Bunsen burner in chemistry class. "[Chemistry] was a necessary requirement since I was going into pharmaceutical sales," Justin said.

writing on the wall

With paper in hand, Eli Lopez, freshman, writes on the board in English. While some requirements changed, the four-year English requirement remained the same for all types of diplomas students could earn.



group gabber

In a cluster freshmen Zak Boswell, Steve Millies and Mike Mashura work together on a Fahrenheit 451 assignment for English. "English was a good way of learning how to analyze," Mrs. Lemon said.

sign of the season

With minds recalling the lyrics and hands following the signs, juniors Elizabeth Fattore, Elaine Hansen, Kristen Gleason and Christy Gilbert round up to perform holiday carols with their American Sign Language class. "The tests that we had were the hardest part of the class," Kristen said. "Trying to remember the words as things were signed was tough."

popular picks

Whether cramming to memorize the four lobes of the brain or carefully crafting a lump of clay, students voice their choices for the top five elective classes

- 1 Ceramics 1
- 2 Nutrition and Wellness
- 3 AP Psychology
- 4 Psychology
- 5 Introduction to 2D Art
Media Arts
Accounting

results based on number of classes

point value

Preoccupied with keeping up scores and questions for the *Scarlet Letter* on his laptop, Zach Holobowski, junior, serves as the host in his "Weakest Link" extra credit game.



ARE YOU A MAN OR A MONKEY?



monkey business

To reenact the debate over evolution, freshmen Eric Appelsies, Leah Killabarda, Anne McShane, Erica Ranade and Michelle Becka act as jury members. "The trial was pretty fun, though, and a nice break from what we usually did," Eric said.

fine tuning

Before their spring break performance in Michigan and Cleveland, Stephanie Frank, freshman, and Kevin Wadycki, senior, touch up their bass clarinet parts. "For me the hardest part of band was going from playing easy music at St. Paul's to the hard music here," Stephanie said.



exceeding the standard...

seek the upper hand

Striving to make the grade, students waded through advanced Spanish conversations and genetic karyotypes to scrounge up 48 mandatory credits and lock in an Academic Honors diploma

Carefully tracing her finger down her Spanish 1 vocabulary list, Erin Joseph, freshman, reviewed each foreign word in her head. Frustrated with the tedious memorization, she slammed her book shut.

Though over 100 classes tempted students, the 48 required credits for an Academic Honors diploma, balancing a full course load and keeping grades at a "C" or above presented a chore. Erin crammed two years' worth of a language into one.

"I came from a Catholic school; we never had a chance to take [foreign language] classes," Erin said. "The kids at Wilbur Wright took it for two years. I had to push it into one. I took Sign Language to get out of Spanish but still make the credits."

While all of the requirements of English, math, science and electives sent some students running, others grudgingly accepted the pressure.

"The hardest class I had to take was Chemistry," Dustin Bothwell, sophomore, said. "All the work you did was so tough, and the majority of the grade depended on tests that I did horribly on."

Regardless of the title that an honors diploma offered, some felt that the work meant little without the initiative to take the right classes. Opting for advanced English classes to bolster her writing, Katie Landowski, junior, found the courses useful.

"I learned how to write well because when I was older, I would need to use those skills," Katie said.

By choosing specific classes, JP Hus, senior, turned his academic requirements to his benefit. Taking Physics to meet his science credits, JP readied himself for an engineering career at Purdue University.

From number crunching acceleration rates to sweating out gym class, students decided if they wanted to strive above the standard for the honors diploma. As Erin marched away from her vocab list, she remembered her long-term goals. She turned back and hit the books once more.

high strung

Strumming the notes to Pink Floyd's "Brain Damage," Matt Mikkels, senior, creates a musical background for his group's presentation of *Oedipus Rex* in his Honors World Literature class to round out the part of the chorus.

table for three

Carefully watching their manners in French 2, sophomores Drew Albertson, Scott Strandberg and Nate Holobowski present their knowledge of French culture. "All you had to do was remember 10 lines," Scott said to



drill team

For a dribbling drill in gym class, Pete Drogolewicz, freshman, pivots around a cone. "It helped me with my coordination," Pete said.

cooking corner

Observing the handiwork of a professional chef, sophomores Brandon Rafacz and Jill Young take part in a demonstration for Foods I. Meeting experts helped students learn firsthand, according to Jill.



set in their ways:

Two sophomores explain the tricks they used when studying for tests.

"To remember what the word 'akin' meant, I used the phrase 'same kind' because the letters 'k-i-n' were in both."

Kersten Kelly, sophomore

"In Chemistry I had to memorize gas laws. The constant in each was either pressure, volume or temperature. I remembered Boyle's law because I thought of 'boil,' which reminded me of temperature."

Megan Remec, sophomore



test run

Involved in a demonstration for AP Economics, seniors Keith Dell' Aquila, Deepam Rusia, Rob Zacny, Candice Grant and Sarah Papin simulate a factory assembly line. "Through the game we were able to actually visualize the phenomenon of diminishing marginal returns, something that we had already learned earlier," Deepam said.

poetic precision

For English Literature seniors Gintaras Peculis, Steve Slater and Adam Wallace surf the internet for information on romantic poets. Internet access served as a key component to Gintaras' research on Dorothy Woodsworth, his assigned poet. "It helped because I was able to look up things quicker and use my time efficiently," Gintaras said.





memorization came easily for Chetan Chaubal, freshman. He read things once, retained the information and recalled it come test time.

On the occasion that he had difficulty remembering something, Chetan devised methods that ensured that he would still receive a decent grade.

"For vocabulary in English or Spanish, I used flash cards," Chetan said. "I just tried to compare a new word with other words that I already knew."

Similar tricks helped Gina Christopher, freshman, study for tests. After her mom taught her an easier way to memorize facts in sixth grade, Gina took advantage of the tip and used it in high school.

"I tried to find relationships between words and what I needed to know," Gina said. "In one class I had to know what happened in 1937. I remembered it because the '7' looked like an 'L,' which was in the word 'mainland.' So I remembered that the Chinese mainland was invaded in 1937."

When such devices failed, Gina used repetition to try to remember information that she needed to know. Other students, however, utilized class time to help them learn new words and information.

Nicole Rietmann, junior, noted that in-class games served as effective teaching tools. In U.S. History, for example, students played a vocabulary game where each team received index cards with either words or definitions on them. One person from each team threw all of the cards into the air, and then teammates scrambled to pair each word with its corresponding definition.

Games brought an element of fun into the classroom and helped students memorize the specific facts they needed to know for tests and quizzes, according to Nicole.

Although some students relied on ability and family for help, others looked to their teachers to come up with innovative learning techniques. From flash cards to mnemonic devices to bingo, students mastered the tricks of the trade.

book worm

Taking a break in the Commons, seniors Lindsay Poppa and Becky Gribble catch up on the day's events. Becky often brought a novel to school to escape boredom. "[Reading] helped my vocabulary because I learned new words," Becky said.

get together

For an assignment in English, freshmen Theodore Liu, Denny Lee, Gina Christopher and Giane Salvacion work together. Teachers often created groupwork assignments so that students could benefit from the knowledge of their peers.

the easy way out...

staying on the ball

From a variety of
classroom games to flash
cards and word
relationships, students
utilize tricks of the trade
to perfect techniques
and conquer
school learning



the easy way out...

sitting high and dry

Some students
nearly drown in a
cluttered sea of papers,
while others keep their
heads above water by
leading an organized life

Carrying no more than a textbook, a calculator, and a bulging notebook, Colleen Summers, senior, dashed into calculus. As the teacher began lecturing, Colleen dug into the black leather purse slung over her shoulder and fished out her only pen.

When describing her lifestyle, the word "organization" simply didn't strike a chord with Colleen.

"I was massively disorganized," Colleen said. "All my stuff went into one notebook. I refused to use folders because I just ended up confusing things more. I tried so many times, but it just didn't work."

While Colleen aimed for the least amount of school supplies, Phil Chan, freshman, couldn't survive without a plastic binder, checking that all his papers stayed in line and unwrinkled. He liked to keep everything clean from backpack to locker.

"I had to keep my books straight," Phil said. "It really got on my nerves when I found loose papers and didn't know where they were from."

For his own sake, Phil tried to maintain order; but other students learned organizational skills in class. The English 11 research paper required juniors to undergo multiple steps including a thesis statement, research notecards, outline and rough draft. Though teachers intended for the pre-writing process to lessen the workload, some students preferred their own methods.

"If I could have done it my own way, I would not have been so tedious and done the notecards," Nick Thaera, junior, said. "It really worked out in the end, but it took too much time."

Colleen agreed that conventional organization didn't suit everybody. Unable to conform to using folders or a backpack, she devised a system of her own.

status check

Buried in the newspaper, seniors Doug Quasny and Mark Sellers check quotes for the stock market game.

"Organization was key," Doug said. "A binder with sections of individual research was a big part of the grade."



saved by the bell

Thankful for the interruption, juniors Branka Bastaic and Laura Somenzi take advantage of a fire drill to cram for a vocab test. Poor organization skills easily led to last-minute procrastination, according to Branka.

unorganized chaos

Rummaging through a mess of water bottles and old t-shirts, Jimmy Bochnowski, sophomore, yanks a book from his locker. "I was pretty unorganized," Jimmy said. "I hardly ever cleaned my locker. I didn't think it was worth taking the time."

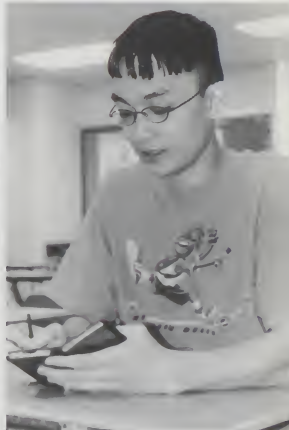


early bird

Balanced on the edge of the diving board, Mike Yatsko, sophomore, catches up on work after morning swim practice. Joining swimming forced Mike to organize his time better. "It took up a great deal of my life, but it actually made me get better grades and work harder," Mike said.

digital friend

At his desk Jon Silverman, senior, fiddles with his Palm 5 electronic organizer. "I used it for school, waking me up as an alarm and keeping track of my agenda," Jon said.



anatomy of a backpack:

Explore the contents of junior Carly Funston's backpack, a bag she used to lug 17.75 lbs of her life around school.

Prayer journal: "I liked to write everything down that happened to me, whether it was a good or bad day. I could just write down my prayers to God."



Secret Sources of Power
by TF and Tommy Tenney:
"A lot of times in class I would read during a break when we had nothing to do."

Accordion binder: "I had a section for each subject. Organization was extremely important to me. I couldn't function without having things where they needed to be."

3-subject notebook:
contained notes for Earth and Space Science, Sociology of Religion and U.S. History

booting up

Laying the groundwork for his future, Joshua Varney, sophomore, utilized the curriculum to fit his career goals.

Future Occupation:
Computer programmer

Elective Classes:
Advanced Computer Applications
Q-Basic

How did these classes help your future?

"They showed me the principles of how the basic systems of the computer worked."

How did your interest in computers grow during the course?

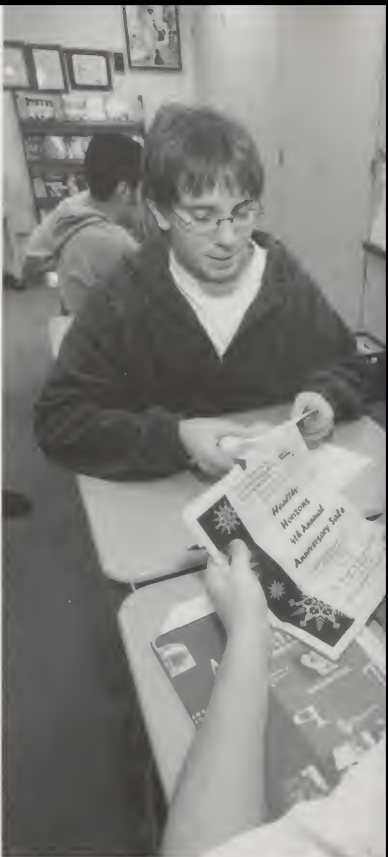
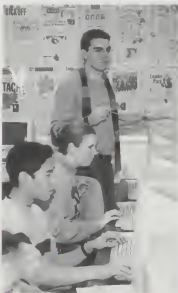
"When my teacher taught me how to fix a computer, I was hooked. That was when I knew what I wanted to do for a living."

sales pitch

Brainstorming the plan of action for their direct-mail advertising project, Juniors Ivan Fitzgerald and Tom Dwars peruse examples from home for ideas. "I loved how in advertising you used your own creativity to sell a product," Ivan said. "The class exposed me to all the different career areas that I never even knew existed."

all work, no play

Hastily building their pages, Alex Cheng, junior, Lindsay Baranowski, senior, and Joey Manderino, junior, race to meet their Thursday night deadline. "Writing for *Crier* was more like a job," Alex said. "You had to be willing to take on so much more responsibility for it to work."



see saw

Crowded around the table saw, sophomore Waled Musa, freshman Grant Burdeau and sophomore Adam Kaufman refine their shelves. "I wanted to go into woodworking, and the class taught me useful terminology and methods," Grant said.

in focus

After completing a quiz on how to focus a microscope, Ashley Gajda, junior, awaits her evaluation by Mr. Dave Franklin, science teacher. Ashley took AP Biology with the hope of transforming her interest in science into a profession in that field.



the easy way out...

On stage in front of 1,300 people, Jon Kutas, junior, awaited the results that determined whether he would advance to DECA Nationals. Competing in the retail merchandising division, Jon heard his name announced as the first-place winner.

To prepare himself for his future, Jon enrolled in such classes as Hospitality, Travel and Tourism, Business Law and Entrepreneurship.

"Hopefully, those classes helped me narrow all the aspects of business into a single major," Jon said.

Although some projected themselves as the corporate leaders of the world, others set their sights on a musical career. Jenna Candiano, freshman, first joined the school band in fourth grade.

"Band taught me more about music and the new technology," Jenna said.

"Each year brought about a more diverse interest."

While some students signed up for classes of their interest in order to point themselves toward a specific field, others decided to take certain courses simply to do something they enjoyed.

Lyndsay Langbehn, freshman, took Introduction to 2D Art because she wanted to relieve the monotony of a full day of school.

"Art was something that I wanted to do as a hobby and not necessarily as a career," Lyndsay said. "It allowed me to relax and think more abstractly. I was able to use other parts of my brain not used in some of the other 'hardcore' classes."

Sifting through all the special-interest courses, students took advantage of the curriculum to suit both their career goals and hobbies. From the art hall to the business classrooms, students broke away from the usual required academic courses.

Overcome with a sense of satisfaction, Jon accepted his plaque. After preparing himself early in high school, Jon took a step toward his ultimate goal of someday owning his own company.

byte of knowledge

With his know-how in computers, Jeremy Pozdza, senior, tinkers with the school's main computer terminal. His half-day trips to the Career Center offered Jeremy the opportunity to learn about computers outside the traditional classroom.

drawing interest

Absorbed in his work of art, Jason Jozwiak, junior, meticulously traces around a stencil. Taking classes to build a stronger portfolio for college, Jason augmented his love for art. "Art would be the career I could be truly happy with," Jason said.

designing their future

Choosing career-oriented

courses such as

Advertising and

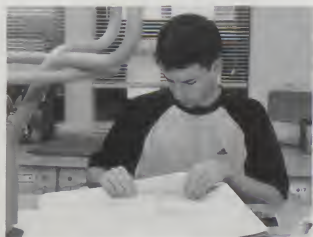
Business Law, students

shape class schedules to

build a framework for the

future or to break up long

days of required classes

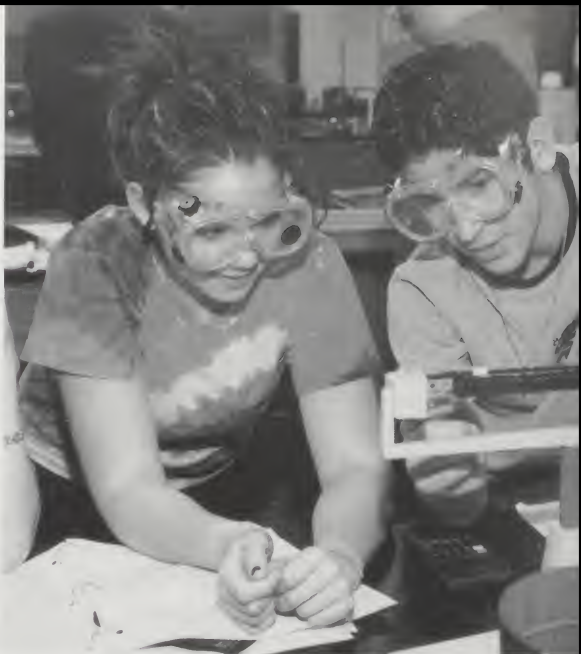
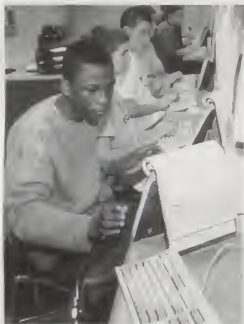


measuring up

Adjusting the scale to find the correct measurement, Art Insurriaga, junior, and Sheri Spolnik, sophomore, complete their chemistry experiment. With drawn-out equations, chemistry labs helped clear up cloudy concepts, according to Art. "Labs helped explain formulas to you," Art said. "You could see what was going on more than when there was a lecture."

quick peek

Focused on his textbook, Sam Golfin, freshman, locates the next line to type during his daily lesson. "It taught me to type better," Sam said. "[Mrs. Nancy Newcomb, computer teacher] made it easy for us."



down and dirty:

From dodging chemistry explosions to designing play sets, students share their most memorable hands-on experiences.

"For a *Romeo and Juliet* project, we had to make Shakespearean food. My grandma made some kind of bread loaf that required pouring alcohol on it and lighting it on fire. The whole class went outside, and I tried to light it. But match after match, it wouldn't light; so we couldn't eat it. My grandma was mad and asked if I had lit it in a hot pan. I had used a cold foil pan, and that was why it didn't work."

Greg Pottoroff, junior

"I was trying to heat my test tube so that the sulfur wouldn't harden. The Bunsen burner lit the filter paper on fire. My lab partner and I tried to blow it out for a minute."

Billy Evans, sophomore

"As the judge [in the *Scarlet Letter* trials], I had to wear a big stupid wig and rule on objections to questions. I wasn't paying any attention; so I just picked a side randomly."

Lydia Carle, junior



record shattering

Tightly clenching the "imaginary earthquake board," Teruo Toyama, senior, and Mr. Mike Wells, science teacher, shake a popsicle-stick building. "Ours withstood all of the shakes and got a perfect," Teruo said.

code blue

Reviving Bryce Hilsta, sophomore, Mark Hannigan, sophomore, performs CPR as Greg Curran, sophomore, kneels beside Mark during lifesaving. "[In lifesaving] I learned skills that I could use in real life," Greg said.



W

hile other seniors lay sprawled out on safari print futons and life-size teddy bears, Zach Lambert, senior, remained in his desk to brainstorm ideas. Starting his new journal entry for English teacher Mr. Dave Russell's Creative Writing class, Zach relaxed, sure that he would never listen to a lecture.

"In Creative Writing you could learn things that you couldn't just read out of a textbook," Zach said. "The class grew and expanded out of the classroom and took my mind along for the ride."

For Marman Campos, freshman, the average classroom with its lectures did not provide the tangible proof that she needed to learn techniques one-on-one.

"I liked hands-on work because you were involved and not just sitting there listening [to lectures]," Marman said.

For some students the ability to work without the pressure of teachers hovering over their backs proved more successful. It created a more relaxing environment, according to Dan Larson, senior.

"Weightlifting was really relaxing and gave me something to do besides thinking about fractions and chemical formulas," Dan said. "It wasn't much pressure and let blood flow to my head."

Whether analyzing cells for biology or scuba diving for Advanced Environmental Science, students found extra excitement in seeing concepts played out in front of their faces.

"It was more fun experiencing something firsthand," Tim Daugherty, junior, said. "I liked to get my hands dirty. In Chemistry I liked to see when a substance would change colors. You couldn't see the actual reaction in the textbook."

As he finished his journal entry, Zach packed up. As he left, Zach could only think of returning tomorrow and delving deeper into the topic.

touch of style

Carefully marking out measurements, Dave Caco, junior, completes his Corinthian style wall piece as Mr. Jim Davidson, industrial technology teacher, supervises. "I got to express myself in the carvings and style of the shelf," Dave said.

molded creation

With dirty hands Alissa Rosario, sophomore, perfects her pottery during ceramics class, the most popular elective. Along with a little bookwork, students learned how to make pinch pots, coil vases, glazes and pottery on the wheel.



the easy way out...

tipping the scales

From counting out the exact number of rubber bands to safely land a bungee-jumping action figure to constructing the backdrop for the *Inherit the Wind* trials, students shift the balance from books to hands-on work

Judging by the caliber of
their individual standards,
students come
face to face with
academic stereotypes by
clinging to traditional
teaching styles or
shattering established
classroom norms

fter unplugging the alarm clock and sleeping in until 7:10 am, Blake Hunter, freshman, grudgingly rolled out of bed and threw on his clothes. Five minutes later, he caught the 7:15 a.m. bus and prepared to sit through another boring, monotonous seven-hour day of school.

The stereotype of a "typical school day" filled with lectures, quizzes, notes and busywork didn't prove true in every case, however. Mrs. Renee Kouris, English teacher, went beyond the normal classroom experience to defy traditional myths.

"[Mrs. Kouris] did things out of the ordinary," Ryan Miller, junior, said. "It was not your typical class. In what other class would you find a boy in a dress in front of the class for a poetry project?"

Some students received forewarnings about certain classes but ended up feeling differently about the courses after taking them.

"I heard [Honors English 10] was really hard from former students; but because we learned so much from Mr. [Dave] Russell, it was worth it," Shephali Gandhi, sophomore, said.

Sometimes when teachers tried a different learning method, students preferred more traditional ones. While trying new things provided a change of pace, it sometimes didn't solve the problem.

"Instead of taking a final, Ms. [Dawn] Fessler made us create our vision of a perfect constitution," Adam Slaboski, senior, said. "I would've rather taken a final because I knew the material well. [The constitution] was too time consuming."

Among the stereotypes that students forged on their own or believed through rumors, students took a look around to form their own opinions about classes. Even students like Blake could wake up (on time) and realize that "all work and no play" didn't define the school day.

of the game

As one of nine sophomores in physics, Andrew Lee and partner Bryan Kowalczyk, senior, solve word problems. "[Sophomores] had less of a math background [but] tended to be better students than other sophomores and the average junior," Mr. Bruce Curme, science teacher, said.

his weight

To strengthen his triceps, Nick Stone, junior, works out in weight training. At each six-weeks' end, students needed to "max out," or improve how much they could lift. "I thought it would be harder," Nick said. "The class was different because we didn't have to do bookwork."



dirty work

With shovel in hand, Warren Santner, junior, lifts dirt into a barrel to help Mr. John Edgington, science teacher, plant mums in the courtyard. Botany proved different from what Warren expected. "I thought there would be a lot of book work and not much hands-on work," Warren said. "We did a lot in the greenhouse."

drawing conclusions

Enjoying a break from sitting through lectures, freshmen Kelly Simmons and Lisa Carrillo draw posters to learn about cells in biology. "I was a visual person," Kelly said. "I learned a lot more that way. Seeing it was better than writing it out."



cooking up a storm

For a cooking lab in nutrition and wellness class, Tony Calabrese, junior, and Nick Cosme, sophomore, prepare to brown meat for spaghetti sauce. Nick thought he signed up for a blow-off class filled with a million girls, which proved wrong. "The tests were hard because I didn't know anything since I didn't pay attention," Nick said. "I was always thinking about food."

disappearing act

Quickly thinking on the spot, sophomores Justin Dalk'orobbo and Lindsay Mambourg act out a scene in Theater Arts. Justin acted as a stove repairman coming to Lindsay's house while Lindsay pretended to hide her husband in the stove. "[The class] challenged me," Justin said. "I thought there would be no homework and just acting, but we ended up having to take tests."



opposite extremes:

Junior year often created stereotypes about the effects classes had on students' academic lives. Here, one junior did whatever it took to get the 'A,' while the other strived for the bare minimum.

	Liam Singer, junior	Nidhi Kansal, junior
Homework	"I usually did most of it in school."	"I always finished my homework at home."
Reason for study habits	"Homework sucked. No one wanted to do it. It was just something that you had to do."	"Knowing I had my stuff done on time relieved a lot of stress. I wanted to get into a good college."
Trademark habits	"I did work in school when teachers were talking, but the rest of the time I slept. If I forgot to do homework, I did it in classes before."	"I used study hall for studying for the next day. For tests, I'd rewrite notes neater in red pen to help me remember."

harder than you think...

acting under pressure

Struggling to handle the hassles of high school life, students attempt to maintain their sanity as they grapple with the incessant demands of homework, deadlines and college anxieties

Orange light permeated the darkroom as a Brandi Bishop, sophomore, impatiently eyed the clock while rocking a tray filled with chemicals. She frantically tried to complete her photography project.

After brainstorming a last-minute project idea, Brandi discovered her classmates had already checked out all the photography equipment.

"I knew myself way too well to say that I wouldn't procrastinate again," Brandi said.

Falling behind in work created mounting pressure for students to succeed academically. Self-inflicted stress often stemmed from the idea that good grades indirectly determined a person's fate after high school. With college applications already on his mind, Shreyas Joshi, sophomore, recognized the importance of his grades.

"When it was important to succeed in a difficult class, I pushed myself as far as I could go because those grades could decide which college I got accepted into," Shreyas said.

For those in a club or sport, pressure took on a different meaning. Striving for perfection turned into a case of survival because students needed to maintain their grades in order to continue participating.

"When I came home after school and basketball practice, all I wanted to do was to go to sleep," Becca Delmas, junior, said. "But I was pressured to study because I knew the consequences if I didn't. When I came to school, I was so tired that I developed eye twitches and fell asleep in the middle of class."

Pressure took both a physical and mental toll on many students who felt the need for success. But with her project complete, Brandi's outward appearance transformed. She smiled and laughed as she left the classroom and felt relieved with the burden of pressure lifted off her shoulders.

down to the grain

Spooning out chemicals, seniors Matt Mikels and Roger Shieh conduct a chemistry experiment. "We were careful measuring because if we did a poor job, we lost points," Matt said.

supply and demand

In front of her economics class, Tara Brennan, senior, demonstrates elastic and inelastic demand. "He randomly called on people, and half the time I didn't know the answer," Tara said.





crowd pleaser

Eyes wide open in his humor selection, "This is the Test," freshman Dave Pavkovich practices in front of freshmen Jon Fisher and Phillip Shapiro during the Speech Competition class. Success in tournaments during the year made self-inflicted pressure worthwhile for Dave. "At first I felt embarrassed and pressured to perform in front of my classmates," Dave said. "However, I gained confidence in the process."

photo finish

Minutes before turning in her photography project, Nikki Bland, sophomore, pastes her pictures onto a poster. "As the project due date got closer, the pressure to finish grew," Nikki said. "I didn't plan my time well, and I paid for it in the end."



situation:

A friend calls late one night and complains about the pressures of school the next day. What would you tell him or her to do?

"Just give up. High school is a joke. Just go to a community college for a semester and then to a real college later."

Grant Golonka, senior

"Prioritize your time. Instead of complaining about your problems, start solving them."

Neema Shah, junior

"Pick and choose what you really want to do, what you really love and what you really can't live without."

Genevieve Grdina, freshman

luck of the draw

To decide the order of their AP Composition presentations, seniors Ilene Blumberg, Stephanie Zeck, Adam Wesolowski and Colin Kern fall in line to pick numbers. "I drew number one and felt the pressure that if [Jessie Wilks, senior, and I] wanted to do well, we had to work a lot harder because we didn't have as much time," Colin said.



pressure point

Poring over the information from the internet, Dan Kohnen, senior, looks for extra research material in the resource center. Dan obtained a website from Mr. Dave Franklin,

science teacher, to help him with the chapter. "[AP Biology] was mainly a self-taught class with a lot of reading," Dan said. "I put in at least half and hour each night to keep up."

harder than you think...

working over time

Juggling busy schedules
brimming with activities,
students search for the
best ways to conquer
towering stacks of
homework, burgeoning
mounds of textbooks and
overflowing backpacks
bursting at the seams

As he took two steps at a time up to his room, Arun Umapathy, freshman, stopped halfway. Deciding it took too much energy to climb all the way upstairs, Arun pulled out his homework and sprawled out over the carpeted staircase.

"I was too lazy to climb the stairs to my room, and they were so comfortable that I just sat down and then spread out," said Arun.

To help manage their time, students situated themselves in their best working environments. For Dan Kohnen, senior, the ideal room to study imitated a silent sanctuary where he could escape and avoid distractions.

"I did my homework in my home library because it was often the quietest room in the house with the best lighting. I needed full concentration to work," Dan said.

What served as distractions to some students actually provided well-needed breathers for others.

"I was always a multi-tasker: I could talk on the phone, watch TV and do my homework," Jess Wilson, senior, said. "My life had always been so chaotic and like a whirlwind. When something distracted me, my homework didn't seem so long."

Long nights of work propelled students to look for alternative methods to learn, such as study groups. However, students often ended up joking around instead of cramming for their tests.

"I started studying by myself," Ashley Velchek, junior, said. "I had classes where you needed to concentrate without the goof-off study group because you were really pressed for time."

After an hour Arun squirmed on the floor, trying to get comfortable. He packed up his backpack and moved to his room. The once-perfect staircase turned out less comfortable than he had expected.

quiet corner

Alone in a corner of the school, Mike Zembala, sophomore, isolates himself so he can finish his homework before the 7:45 a.m. bell rings. Some students took advantage of the deserted halls to complete their last bits of schoolwork before the mad rush of students arrived.

rat race

Eyeing her mark, Emily Yttri, junior, cuts a piece of felt to decorate her mouse trap car for physics class. "It was one of the only times you got to design things and be creative instead of getting one right answer, memorizing equations or just plugging and chugging," Emily said.



nap time

With head down and arms folded, Aaron Fleitner, freshman, dozes off to sleep. Staying up until late hours of the night to finish never-ending stacks of homework, students took advantage of any breaks in class to make up for lost sleep.



weighted grades

Loading his weight onto his trebuchet, Ryan Rueth, junior, waits to launch it the required ten feet for extra credit in physics. "We saw what people thought when they applied physics to make weapons in the Middle Ages," Ryan said.



lunch crunch

Concentrated on his biology book, Daniel Albrecht-Mallinger, freshman, blocks out all other distractions to cram for his forgotten sixth hour test. "Chances were that those 30 minutes were the only things that saved me from failing my test," Daniel said.

right-brain or left-brain:

What's easier to use?

"In right-brained work you did things like cut pictures or color. There wasn't a right or wrong."

Amanda Stump, freshman

"Right-brained work didn't use techniques and stuff; I was just doing whatever I wanted to do. You couldn't do that with classes like math and science."

Shivani Sharma, sophomore

"When working with right-brained activities, the focus tended to shift to what was not important, such as the creativity and the colors, instead of the important skills that you would need to pass the test, to pass the class, to pass life."

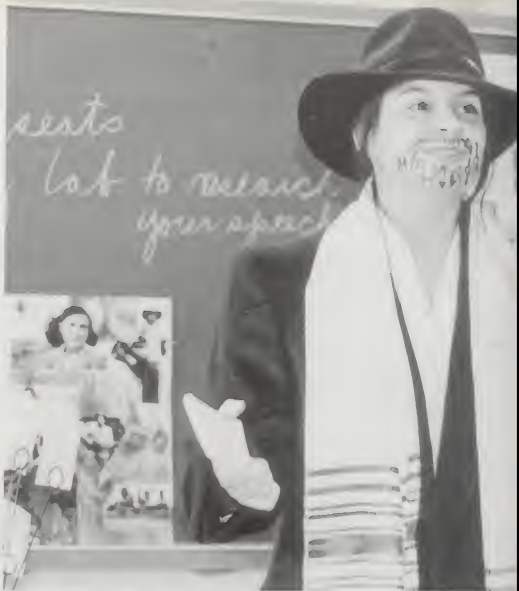
Zach Holobowski, junior

dressed to kill

In search of the best outfit for the *Scarlet Letter* trials in Honors English 11, Caitlin Hawryszkow, junior, rummages through rack after rack of costumes. "They allowed you to gain experience by learning it firsthand more than by writing a paper or answering questions," Caitlin said.

words of the wise

Donning the attire of an Orthodox rabbi, Jessie Wilks, senior, speaks to her AP Composition class about the trials of the Jewish people throughout history. For their final assignment, students paired up to find an immigrant group for research and prepare a 30-minute presentation. "The best part was hearing about the history of the other groups because it was really interesting," Jessie said.



time out:

Squinting at the board with sleepy eyes first hour or fighting to stay awake after lunch, students had certain times of day when they needed a time out.

"The morning was the worst because I was still asleep. It was hard to think in the morning." **Brandon Platt, freshman**

"After morning practices [swimming] were over, the last portion of the day became the worst because you were basically just staring down the clock waiting for the day to be over." **Monica Aldulescu, senior**

"The worst time was between fourth and fifth hours. I had used up all my energy in the first three hours. It was lot of pressure." **Katie Howarth, sophomore**

"The worst part of the day was when you got back from lunch and wanted to fall asleep. Then again, sleeping wasn't too bad." **Phil Chan, freshman**



hang time

Leaping from the court to the net, Teddy Horowitz, freshman, sends the ball to the basket while lan Lopez, freshman, anticipates the rebound. As a required class, students had to participate in the unit sports and written tests, regardless of skill level for physical education.



heavyweights

In a struggle to pull herself off the ground, Gina Nuzzo, junior, gets a hand from Laurie Mann, senior, while adjusting to the "empathy belly" in her child development class. As an extra credit opportunity, students could wear the belly made of rubber and weights for one day to earn points.

creative comforts

With teddy bear in arm and the answer in mind, Jenny Fell, senior, waits to offer her opinion in English teacher Mr. David Russell's Creative Writing class while seniors Medi Ojagh and Kellie Creighton look on. "It wasn't so intimidating, and the class wasn't so structured," Jenny said.

harder than you think...

nanic struck junior Kelly Markovich as she suddenly remembered that today began the Socratic Seminars in English teacher Mrs. Renee Kouris' Honors English 11 class. She frantically tried to recall every detail from *The Scarlet Letter*.

Kelly, along with half of her classmates, arranged the desks into an inner and outer circle. The people in the middle answered a series of questions Mrs. Kouris fired at them while the people on the outside graded them on the quality of their responses.

"I made sure I got enough things said in the time allotted," Kelly said. "I tried to forget about the people that were grading me and was able to get more into the conversation."

Chemistry labs took students out of normal classroom settings and allowed them to participate in a less traditional way. Neel Shah, sophomore, lit magnesium sticks with a Bunsen burner and watched them ignite.

"We put into practice what we were learning in the class," Neel said. "It was pretty exciting, and there were possibilities of a big explosion."

Aside from lab work, opportunities arose for students to present a play to the class. After reading *Inherit the Wind* in Mrs. Linda Lemon's Honors English 9 class, her students memorized sections of the book and acted them out.

Mr. Scott McAlister, social studies teacher, used note cards with each student's name and schedule printed on it to fairly ensure participation.

"Since I was in a large class, sometimes I wouldn't get picked at all," Bilal Omery, senior, said. "Other times, though, I would get called on two or three times in one class hour."

The Socratic Seminars, although nerve-racking for some, helped students refresh their memories on the topic at hand, according to Kelly.

As the bell rang to dismiss class, Kelly breathed a sigh of relief since she realized she would move to the outer circle the following day, and she looked forward to participating instead of dreading it.

natural talent

To offer a better handle on the reading material, freshmen Hana Keil and Ryan Dillner discuss *Great Expectations* in English. While public speaking scared some students, talking to the class proved easier than other activities, according to Ryan.



roundup review

With the entire French 2 class on its feet, Mrs. Sue Durkin, foreign language teacher, helps them learn their reflexive verbs. "Nobody was too nervous to participate because we were learning at the same pace," Kate Mikels, sophomore, said.



losing their cover

Under the gun to do their part, students sweat through random notecards and on-the-spot interrogation that force them to the front of the classroom

harder than you think...

simply blown away

Trapped by the
simple mistake of
underestimating
certain classes' difficulty,
students watch their
hopes of sliding by with
minimal effort
vanish into thin air

Confidence radiated from Amanda Porta, junior, as she found a seat in Theater Arts class. *I can get an 'A' in here with no problem, she thought. It's not an academic class, so how hard can drama be, right?*

Wrong. Amanda signed up for Theater Arts to discover if she liked acting. Much to her surprise, Mrs. Renee Kouris, English teacher, kept her students occupied the first two six weeks with pages of notes, chapter tests and memory work.

"I worked every night for an hour and a half to memorize Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem 'Kubla Khan,' which was a lot of work," Amanda said. "I found the tests to be challenging, too."

Just as Amanda's interest drew her to Theater Arts, Music History and Appreciation appealed to Chris Barnes, junior, who planned to major in music. While others hoped to breeze through the class, Chris knew better after talking to Dr. Timothy Bartlett, music teacher. Still, the class demanded more of Chris than he had anticipated.

"It turned out to be a lot harder than I thought," Chris said. "Dr. Bartlett was a little more intense in [Music History and Appreciation] than in Concert Choir. He was so professional. He just liked to get into it and explained every detail thoroughly and perfectly."

Media Arts hammered more details about photography into students' brains than they had imagined possible, according to Kersten Kelly, sophomore. Expressing an interest in art, George Budzik, sophomore, accepted the class's challenge.

"I didn't expect the class to be too difficult, but it was pretty hard," George said. "It taught you all the lightings, settings and apertures. The hardest part was memorizing the parts of the camera."

Hard: one word Amanda hadn't associated with

Theater Arts before she ended up with an 88 percent. She begged the teacher to round up, but Mrs. Kouris refused, shattering Amanda's early visions of an easy 'A.'

To the max

As veins pop out on his arms, Matt Gornal, junior, lifts free weights in weight training. "For the final we had to 'max out' on the bench," Matt said. "I had to work hard to get my max up and improve my grade."





tooting his own horn

Eyes fixed on his music, TJ Surma, sophomore, plays the tuba in concert band. Opting to play guitar in the pep band as well, TJ performed at almost every home basketball game.

motherly love

Arms cradling her flour baby, Shannon Zenos, junior, tends to her two-week project. "It taught a lesson of responsibility," Mrs. Linda Scheffer, Child Development teacher, said.



business matter

Fiddling with neon pencils, Dave Caco, junior, rearranges products in the bookstore display case. To practice entrepreneurial skills, students in the Marketing a School Store class ran the store themselves, selling school and personal necessities before school and during B and C lunches.

sweet deal

Gathered around a table of plastic ice cream cones, freshman Pauline Zheng, Mrs. Linda Haynes, Art Department chair, freshmen Jared Flahaven, Angela Sowinski and junior Paul Raddatz create still life drawings. "It was a good challenge," Paul said. "We used skills with line and color."

deadly blows:

Match each of the following blowoff experiences gone bad with their victims.

1. "It was a brand-new class. The first six weeks we just did bookwork, but the hardest part of the class was the projects. We did about one a week and had to design them ourselves."
2. "Not only were the concepts hard, but there was no homework or easy points. The grades were entirely based on tests. After about two weeks of lectures and notes, you wanted to kill yourself because you were studying so hard."
3. "I expected it to be sort of a blowoff, but it appeared not to be. The teacher gave quizzes, something [he or she] normally didn't do before. [He or she] also graded more on what you did rather than how hard you tried."

- a. Elliott Gibbs, senior—Ceramics 2
- b. Ariana Rebesco, senior—AP Biology
- c. Andy Doesburg, junior—Manufacturing Systems

answers: 1. c, 2. a, 3. b

breaking ground

After the Football Team's pre-game huddle, senior Jon Wendell and sophomore Nick Cosme burst onto the field at the Homecoming game. "It was a huge rush knowing so many people were there for us," Jon said.

devil's advocate

Grinning behind a curly black mustache, Gabe Culberg, junior, advertises the pie-eating contest at the Homecoming pep rally. "I wanted to be different and innovative by drifting away from the typical 'M' or red face paint," Gabe said.



Munster High School Marching Mustangs



Danielle Gillund, sophomore, and Monica Aldulescu, senior



Sophomores Brittany Meier and Darius Bamboat



Giane Salvacion, freshman

what was the biggest TRADITION

"The rule of the Commons was a tradition. The use of the Commons was always the typical meeting up with friends, relaxing or finishing homework; but every year had their own senior touch."

Anwar Ali, senior

"The Munster Tennis Team always going down to State had been a great tradition. The tradition of excellence always motivated us to do well and maintain our dominance."

David Chen, freshman

"The biggest tradition was trying to beat out the senior class from the year before. We were always thinking of ways to outdo them with a better senior prank or something to keep up the rivalry."

Phil Resler, junior



running along with HISTORY

Embedded within the school, traditions reappeared year after year through students' actions. Traditions drove hordes of superfans to the sidelines to scream voices hoarse and brandish t-shirts spelling "Munster" in bold, scarlet block letters. History led hundreds of girls to tear through malls in search of that \$210 strapless powder-blue Jessica McClintock dress to set the perfect Homecoming scene. These deep-seated traditions sparked life into school and dealt students a hidden standard to follow.



Seniors Medi Ojagh and Rachel Sepiol
[Mighty the Mustang]



Commons on Homecoming Friday



Seniors Stephanie Smith, Amanda Manoski,
junior Jilán Hmurovic, and senior Ginger
Anthony

"The letterman jackets were the biggest tradition at MHS. It was an honor to have one and to be able to wear one. It was more than something you could just go out and buy."

Erin Joseph, freshman

"The biggest tradition was just Munster being really competitive. You walked by the wall, and you saw all those pictures and saw all the success that we had in the tons of pictures."

**Stephanie Rangel,
sophomore**

"Homecoming was the biggest tradition because virtually every school had a Prom and a Homecoming. Homecoming was all about school pride, whether the senior class was loud or not. It always had been."

Sarah Kelley, senior

From bodies wrapped in bedsheets and heads crowned with olive branches on 'Toga Day' to cries for help from a locked freshman spirit truck, Homecoming quirks prove there's

no place like HOME

make Love, Not War" pleaded a tiny button in the corner of senior Jodi Rosenthal's wife beater. She turned the shirt over and, with a fabric marker in hand, etched the lyrics to an old punk-rock song: "Unity—as one stand together."

In addition to the usual red bandannas and class t-shirts, students showed their patriotism in the week after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by carrying a small American flag or painting one on their faces.

Two groups stepped forward to raise money for the Red Cross Liberty Fund. During lunch for three days, Ms. Dawn Fessler's AP Government class collected donations totaling \$1,040.18. Student Government and Project X collaborated to sell white remembrance ribbons Friday at lunch and at the game, accumulating over \$1,000.

Aside from patriotism, some students complained about the lack of visible school pride.

"I didn't see much school spirit, but I thought that students had more than they showed," Paul Cowgill, sophomore, said.

Jodi had seen more spirit in past years, but she detected the support behind the school's academic and extracurricular achievements. Instead of flashy spirit, Jodi and her peers expressed a type of quiet pride through something as subtle as a plastic pin.

(continued on 62)



Chris Wey, sophomore

Courtney Watkins, senior



playing afloat

Just before the parade begins, Josh Raycroft, sophomore, adjusts a pump on the rainbow. Josh dedicated about five hours to helping build the sophomore class float. "The only problem was having enough people there and getting it done on time," Josh said. "In the beginning there were only a few people, but more people started coming later."

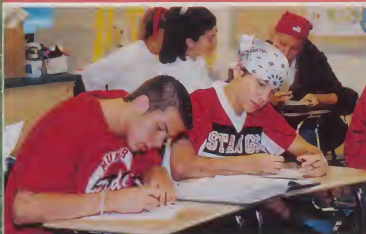


show of pride

With one careful motion, Kelley O'Brien, junior, concentrates on the reflection in her make-up compact to outline her graduation year in black. The spirit captured in simple artwork on the faces of her classmates carried over to the pep rally when the Junior Class won the cheering competition.

armash hit

As senior Greg Eckrich slams a cherry pie onto junior Alex Feldman's head, juniors Lenny Weiss, Josh Levin and Steve Garcia watch the pep rally go awry. Alex attributed the unexpected blow to class rivalry. "There was more tension between the juniors and seniors because they were always fighting for power," Alex said.



John Jamcich and Don Alspach, juniors



Josh Bradish and Teruo Toyama, seniors

no place like HOME

(continued from 60)

flying pie causes chaos

Boisterous cheers erupted from the senior section of the bleachers as senior Greg Eckrich smashed his cherry pie onto junior Alex Feldman's head during the pie-eating contest at the pep rally.

The competition of Homecoming generated class rivalry and encouraged some students to break the rules. Since all the other participants cheated and disqualified themselves from the three-legged race, the freshmen won by default.

Violating tradition, the juniors created their own spirit days, a custom usually belonging to the seniors. The juniors' rebellion changed '50s Day' to 'Cowboy and Indian Day.'

"I knew the seniors would do [their own spirit days]," Emily E. Jones, sophomore said. "But I thought it would have been better if the rest of the school coordinated for school spirit days instead of class spirit days."

Despite deviating from the norm, students still exhibited spirit through their dress. Only during spirit week could a student spot a giant blue Care Bear and three pairs of furry cat ears.

tornado sucks up 29 girls

An eerie silence swept over the field as band members rushed to tighten chinstraps on new uniforms. On cue the band began a five-minute show that revealed twenty-seven hours of polishing.

"I thought we not only put our hearts, but also our sweat, tears and even blood into the show," Brian Carraher, sophomore, said.

Sounds of ominous music swelled into a turbulent cyclone of fury. A cluster of girls spun around uncontrollably until a startling crash shattered the air and the girls collapsed onto the field.

In accordance with "The Wizard of Oz" theme, the Dance Team choreographed a routine to a medley of songs

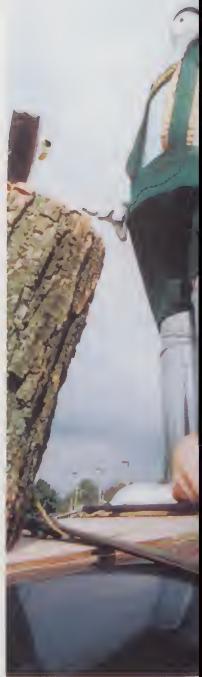
which began with a tornado simulation.

As the Football Team topped the game off with a 45-7 victory over Hammond, students momentarily forgot they belonged to a certain class and enjoyed the night as one school, according to Ryan Miller, junior. The red and white bodies huddled in the bleachers marked the subtle yet undeniable pride exposed during Homecoming week.



jumping for joy

Running down the football field with Mark Hannigan, sophomore, Kelley Fernandez, sophomore, cheers on her fellow classmate in the potato sack race at the pep rally. "I loved the competition between the grades because each individual grade came together as a whole," Kelley said.



Jerred Zukanovich, sophomore



Josh Levin, Lenny Weiss, Diana Bozovic, and Leah Merkell, juniors



Mr. Kent Lewis, business teacher, Justin Libak, sophomore, and David Kaplan, senior



Winning senior float

tin man tiedown

To keep the mix of lederhosen and metal atop the German Club float, Nick Bularzik, senior, ties down his tin man creation in the last few minutes before the parade. Combining a wooden frame with heating ducts and joints from Home Depot, Nick worked the week before Homecoming to plan the fusion between German culture and the Wizard of Oz. "My parents and I just picked up some fabric and sequins and sewed them on," Nick said. "The whole thing was entirely handmade."



crowning the queen

Just after the announcement of Homecoming Queen, Karen Lindemann, senior, embraces a surprised Holly Grunewald, senior. "I was in disbelief," Holly said. "I just stood there and didn't know what to do." Homecoming Court: seniors Dan Barton, Lauren Ziemba, Brian Stier and Becky Gribble; Tom Royal, '01; seniors Karen Lindemann, Gadeir Abbas, Farah Sheriff, Brian Hmurovic, Holly Grunewald, Jordan Ghezzi and Paige Wagner; Blake Larkins, '01; and senior Jeni Shike



Alex Gikas, sophomore,
Mike McCullough, junior, and
Mark Hannigan, sophomore



Natalie Dukich and Dominique Mercer, juniors



John Balicki and
Adam Slaboski, seniors



Maria Stopper, sophomore,
Jiljian Hmurovic, junior, and
Leah Shaffer, sophomore

Fishing for the last scraps of food
strewn across car mats or
scrounging up leftover corrugated
cardboard from gas stations,
students struggle to make sense of
hectic dance preparation

MAKING A CLEAN break

umping up and striking the Commons wall with all her strength, Ashley Brown, freshman, sighed with frustration as her cardboard star fell to the ground. As she worked to stick one of over two hundred fifty throughout the room, the cheerleaders hurriedly darted across the floor around her while rapidly transforming the Commons into Hollywood for Turnabout.

Planning for dances demanded student-backed efforts involving weeks of preparation and hours of labor. From salvaging cardboard for decorations from a Mobil gas station to hanging a six-foot cardboard reel of movie film from the ceiling, cheerleaders put in large amounts of time that students often took for granted, according to Ashley.

"We spent all that time decorating because we wanted to make it fun for everyone," Ashley said. "It bothered us when some people would make fun of us and then go to Turnabout, love the decorations, but not realize where they came from. Most students didn't realize half the stuff we did to get ready."

Armed with over \$2000 in decorations, Student Government set the scene for the Homecoming dance in three weeks of setup. After rejecting two themes for fear of their racial connotations, they chose "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" for their largest fundraiser.

Pre-dance commitments also existed on an individual level, however. Primping and prepping for both guys and girls made up the personal behind-the-scenes work for dances.

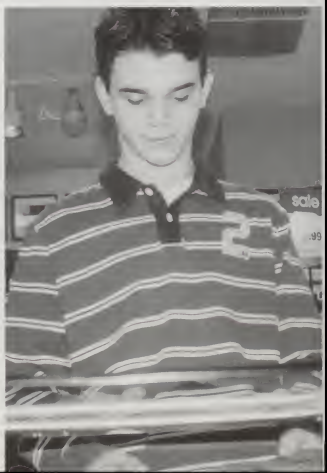
"Guys had to make sure they had enough money for the dance," Randy Hoyle, junior, said. "While girls had a greater physical responsibility, guys had a greater monetary one. I had to save and get a little money from my parents to be able to go."

As Ashley lunged to hang the last star at the top of the wall of names, she stopped to take a step back and observe her work. After five straight hours of work, the cheerleaders finally transformed the Commons and set the scene for the following night.



hair-raising hustle

With hair up and her style in mind, Melody Spasoff, junior, meets her 12:30 p.m. appointment at Vogue Hair Studio in Munster for Turnabout. "The atmosphere from the setup of the dance really made it worth it," Melody said. "If I wanted to dance in the Commons, I could have done that in school anyway."





clean sweep

Vacuum in hand, Greg Eckrich, senior, cleans out his red GTP Pontiac before the Homecoming Dance. "At dances 50 percent of the people you saw, you had never seen before," Greg said. "I saw kids who knew my name, but I didn't know who they were. It was kind of creepy."

dance digits

5-foot Oscar shaped ice sculpture imported from Chicago

16-foot blue "Emerald City" built for Homecoming

2 failed Homecoming theme ideas

274 cardboard stars cut out for couples' names

4 dollars spent per building on Turnabout skyline decorations



nailling it down

After mapping out her plan of action for the day, Jillian Hmurovic, junior, gets a \$15 manicure for the Homecoming dance. "Every girl wanted to be an individual for the dance," Jillian said. "They'd cry if their hair wasn't perfect." To cover the last empty space in the Commons, Sara Dobrinich, sophomore, sticks up the last Turnabout decorations. Shopping at Debbie's for a Homecoming dress, Lauren Mikler, junior, catches her reflection to try to decide on the perfect gown.



suiting up

While meandering through the stores at River Oaks mall, Mike Shinkan, sophomore, stops in to price suits. "Girls had to match jewelry and keep their hair in place all day, but guys had responsibility, too," Mike said.

on a roll

Combining their efforts on the 16-foot cardboard "Emerald City" for the Homecoming dance, freshmen Tina Shieh and Julie Nelson and junior Mike Lee glue and roll the tubes they Wednesday before the dance.

As four boys hoisted her into the air, Jodi Rosenthal, senior, gripped the edge of her seat. From below Nick Bokowy, senior, cheered on his flustered date and recently crowned Prom Queen, who prayed she wouldn't lose her balance.

"It was just all a blur," Jodi said. "It was just one of the moments when you were so excited that you couldn't think of anything. I was just worried that I would fall. All I could remember was Nick yelling, 'Don't let her fall!'"

The crowning of Nick and Jodi as Prom King and Queen marked only one of the highlights of the night. Given the chance to dress up in formal tuxes and ball gowns, students enjoyed an evening filled with elegance and socializing.

"With everybody in dresses and suits, it wasn't something you got to do every week," Rachel Kevin, junior, said. "My friends had a bit more decorum than they normally did and acted a lot more mature than when we just hung out."

head over heels

Along with other students anticipating the night of the dance, Amanda Shike, sophomore, matched her excitement for Prom with apprehension. As Mr. Don Fortner, business teacher, announced her name, she

nervously began the walk around the fieldhouse. She feared the mortifying possibility of falling flat on her face during the Grand March, a Dollars for Scholars fundraiser, with dozens of on-looking friends and family.

"I had never been to anything like that, so I was really nervous," Amanda said. "But I got through it, and [the dance] was everything that I hoped."

Students hoping to pull off a successful evening started to plan for the event weeks in advance. But with costly limousines, lavish attire and elaborate post-dance plans, teenagers sometimes shelled out hundreds of dollars for a single weekend of memories.

The money spent paid off for those who shared the occasion with someone special, according to AJ Grow, junior.

"If you went with just a friend, the money could have been a little bit much," AJ said. "But if you were with someone that was really important to you, it was worth it. It was just those moments when you were dancing, and you couldn't care less about anything else except holding each other."

(continued on 68)

dancing TO THE beat

Belting out a Michael Jackson medley or stomping to the 'Casper Slide,' students cast aside their fears and let loose



HANGING BY A THREAD

At Turnabout sophomore Lindsey Steele's mother sews her gown together. "I breathed easier knowing she was there to fix it all," Lindsey said.

CARDED ENTRANCE

On the yellow brick road, freshmen Christina Domenico and Phil Chan flash their IDs at Homecoming.



CHECKING IN

Filling out the Prom Court ballot, Megan Leahy, junior, votes Jodi Rosenthal, senior, for Queen. "I wasn't surprised she won because out of everyone on the list, she was the only person I ever heard a lot of nice things about," Megan said.

CABIN FEVER

During the weekend after Prom, Sam Watanapongse, senior, pitches a tent at Turkey Run National Park in central Indiana. "Munster tended to be the same thing over and over again," Sam said. "I just never knew anything like that existed in Indiana."



FOR *your* information

From prices to themes, relive the moments and details that made each of the three annual dances unique.



Homecoming
"No Place Like Home"
Sept. 22
\$30/couple, \$15/single
275 couples, 35 singles



Turnabout
"Hollywood Nights"
Jan. 12
\$34/couple, \$17/single
232 couples, 5 singles



Prom
"A Night in Venice"
Apr. 27
\$70/couple, \$35/single
210 couples, 2 singles



SAY CHEESE

All smiles during the Grand March, Lauren Treasure, junior, and her boyfriend Brian Balkam, '01, laugh in front of their friends and family.

PARTY LINE

Together on the dance floor, seniors Jeni Shike, Lauren Morelli and Angie Meyers clap to the music. "It hit me that it was our very last dance," Angie said. "No matter what we did, we made sure to do it together."

dancing TO THE beat

(continued from 66)

icing on the cake

While some students formed memories during the dance, others remembered the moments that began when the last song ended. Sheri Mehok, sophomore, and 17 other friends piled into 2 limousines to Maggiano's restaurant.

After a fancy Italian meal, the enormous check arrived. Snatching the bill and organizing the payment themselves, the boys followed Homecoming tradition and paid for dinner.

"It was really sweet when all the guys refused to let us pay for any of it," Sheri said. "It just really made me feel special that night."

Contrary to tradition, Turnabout offered couples the chance to reverse roles. Some still insisted on paying for the entire occasion; but boys like Neel Shah, sophomore, still appreciated not having to muster up the courage to invite a date.

"I never asked a girl before to a dance, and it was nice when someone asked me," Neel said. "Part of

the reason was that I never knew how much fun [a dance] was. You could be all crazy and not worry about totally being yourself in a big crowd."

dancing to another tune

The chance to cast aside social inhibitions lured others to the floor. Senior Ray Fandl, a self-proclaimed klutz, ignored his dancing inability and busted a move.

"I couldn't dance for my life," Ray said. "But I still had fun because I could make a fool of myself and not care."

From tearing up the dance floor to dining in a classy locale, students each anticipated their favorite aspect of the evening. As the night flew by, Jodi couldn't stop smiling while she migrated from group to group to savor every moment of her last high school dance.



Seniors Nicole Vancura and Jon Silverman



NAME THAT TUNE

Requesting music for Prom, juniors Emily Hoban and Liz Anderson and senior Teruo Toyama crowd around the DJ. "If he didn't play good music, you couldn't have fun," Liz said.



ROYAL PROCESSION

Arms linked, seniors Josh Bradish and Becky Gribble stroll onto the dance floor as Prom Court members. "[I liked] being together with all my friends for one last time," Josh said.

MADE *to* order

Along with her fuchsia dress, Jenn Zivich, junior, flaunted her hand-made accessories. Creating her own jewelry from matching materials, Jenn expressed her individuality for Prom.

When did you first make your jewelry?
 "At the first high school dance, I couldn't find anything to match my dress. But after going to the jewelry store, I found stuff that matched better than anything I bought."

How did it allow you to express yourself?
 "It made [my outfit] more unique because it allowed me to add my own personal touch. Accessories made an outfit. When they matched perfectly, it really made you stand out."

BOOGIE DOWN

Directed by the "Casper Slide," junior Jenn Zivich, Griffith junior Aaron Lopez, seniors Adam Wallace and Chris Pykosz and junior Gina Selent "go down low" during Turnabout.



IN STEP

As her date Brian Brandenburg, Gavitt '00, holds the door open, Katie Caine, senior, steps out of a limousine in front of Villa Cesare. "You had to take a limo; because if you weren't getting home until 3 a.m., it could have gotten really scary," Katie said.

SEEING STARS

As a memento of Turnabout, seniors Kyle Bieda and Katie Kooy pull their personalized star off the decorated wall. "The decorations were the best I had ever seen," Katie said. "I ended up sticking [the star] up on my wall as a memory of all the fun we had."



STRAIGHT *from the* heart

With a mind constantly at work, find out the details of how one senior applies the art of surprise and ingenuity to keep a relationship fresh

"A surprise was unique instead of just the same old stuff. When I asked Chrissy [DiCostanzo, senior] to our first Prom, I wanted to do something different. I bought her a dozen roses and laid

them out in a heart. There were a lot of guys who did romantic stuff that never got credit. There was a strong stereotype that gave guys a bad rap with relationships."

Teruo Toyama, senior

SMALL TALK

Whispering into senior Afton Kurth's ear, senior Megan Dines takes a break from dancing at Homecoming. "The best part of the dance was the excuse to get dressed up," Afton said.



Sending senior Gadeir Abbas flying onto a couch with all her strength, Lizzy Ellison, senior, acted out the scene on opening night exactly as she had rehearsed. But this time, everything went to pieces.

Gadeir's heavy fall sparked a chain reaction: the couch struck the table behind it on which six glass plates sat before their use in the following scene. With a loud clatter, the plates fell and shattered leaving the stage a mess and the cast clueless. Thinking quickly, sophomores Andrew Bridgman and Carolyn Jania hurried to clear the broken glass.

"When we saw it happen, we went out right away as the maid and butler," Andrew said. "We did it in a way that it looked like a part of the show, but the whole cast knew what had happened."

Although over four weeks of practice preceded their performance, production flukes still cropped up. From forgotten lines to sound slip-ups, misfortunes plagued the set of *Out of Sight, Out of Murder*, the first novice play, according to assistant director Sarah Papin, senior.

"Before and during the show, I was all nerves," Sarah said. "Not only were there opening-night jitters, but the cast was having trouble with their lines. That, and the zipper on Kay's [Lizzy's] dress broke; and we had to find a new one. It looked like it was going to be a mess."

An unforeseen crisis also arose on the opening night of the fall play *The Curious Savage* when one of the lead actors, Jodi Rosenthal, senior, suddenly came down with the flu. Battling a 102-degree fever throughout the entire production, Jodi drew upon the support of her castmates.

"I thought I was melting," Jodi said. "I felt awful, but I told myself it wasn't a big deal. When I got there, everyone made me feel a whole lot better. People were bringing me ice; I felt like a movie star."

Whether fighting illness or covering up unexpected blunders, cast members and crew worked together to correct mishaps before the imminent curtain call on opening night.

(continued on 72)

From bringing together a cast for the first-ever novice production to warding off opening night anxieties and onstage mishaps, students devote time to perfecting theatrical productions

it takes two

Poring over technical notes on the performance of *Out of Sight, Out of Murder*, junior Matt Domasica and senior Sarah Papin take note of what to fix before opening night. A novice play presented the potential for many new opportunities, according to Sarah. "You got to see fresh talent," Sarah said. "I liked giving new people chances to be on stage."

backstage bite

After cracking open her Wendy's bag backstage, Jordan Richardson, senior, dives into a salad during a break from rehearsal. Throughout the weeks before the winter performance of *Ducks and Lovers*, finding any time to relax proved vital. "You were working for so long that you had to take a break," Jordan said. "There was no choice in the matter."



Andrew Bridgman, sophomore, and Jason Maldonado, senior





NOTABLE numbers

Facts and figures from three student productions

50 artistic and production staff members producing *Out of Sight, Out of Murder*

1 new novice play called *Out of Sight, Out of Murder*

\$2,390 grossed during the three-day performance of *Ducks & Lovers*

2 co-directors for *Ducks & Lovers*

102-degree fever that struck Jodi Rosenthal, senior on the opening night of *The Curious Savage*

1 live duck eliminated from the cast of *Ducks & Lovers* after it bit an actress

out of sight,
out of murder

Production Dates Oct. 4-5

Tickets \$5

Director Matt Domasica, junior



(first photo) Kay Kelsey [Lizzy Ellison, senior] and Dick Stanton [Donny Yamtich, sophomore] (second photo) Jordan Dillingham [Jimmy Bochnowski, sophomore] and Peter Knight [Gadeir Abbas, senior] (third photo) Lydia [Molly Hanson, sophomore] (last photo) Minna [Sara Dubrinitch, sophomore] and Peter Knight [Gadeir Abbas, senior]



star shine

While switching the lighting color for a change of mood in the winter play *Ducks and Lovers*, Craig Talbot, sophomore, works backstage to do his part as one of the four assistant lighting directors. With stagecraft and technical crews laboring in the weeks before the play, over 20 behind-the-scenes workers brought the sets, lighting and music together.

lovers' lane

Enveloped in a family moment, Uncle Alphonse [Matt Domasica, junior] embraces Yana Latore [Jaime Shapiro, junior] as the rest of their extended family looks on. "The large cast was good because you always had someone to talk to," Erica Ranade, freshman said. "Theater was a passion of mine since I was four, but it also taught me to be able to talk to people in a large crowd."

NAILING IT down

(continued from 70)

Director's cut

With the script of the winter play *Ducks & Lovers* in hand and the adage "two heads are better than one" in mind, seniors Christina Bernacchi and Jodi Rosenthal set out for the first time as co-directors of a Munster Theatre Company production.

While both girls auditioned for the part of director, they concluded that collaborating took priority over competing, according to Christina.

"[Jodi] had so much more acting experience than I did," Christina said. "And I always worked tech and backstage doing scenery. Previous directors had either all acting or all technical knowledge."

Ironing out the wrinkles in the production continued until the final moments in the makeup room. A number of last-minute changes caused some to wonder if the novice play could survive, according to director Matt Domasica, junior.

With an audience of about 300 each night, the novice play attracted more people than expected, and proved that "novice" hardly translated as "bad," according to Sarah Papin, senior.

All in the family

Wary of the opening night of *Ducks & Lovers*, Erica Ranade, freshman, turned to the "spirit circle" for support.

"The spirit circle let me feel more excited than nervous," Erica said. "It was wonderful, especially because it involved underclassmen, creating a tradition to be carried on."

Eliminating stage fright often proved difficult, according to Erica. Yet the tactics that the theatre company developed altered the atmosphere from a professional one to that of a close-knit family, according to Jason Maldonado, senior.

During *The Curious Savage*, a play centered around characters in a mental institution, Christina Bernacchi, senior, drew parallels to her own family to ease the difficulty of performing.

"My mother had a mental illness, so [the play] was personal for me," Christina said. "It illustrated you shouldn't judge a person by their handicap."

Whether building relationships onstage or behind the scenes, cast members such as Christina extended the meaning of their production into their own lives. As Erica stepped away from the spirit circle, she took a deep breath and confidently strutted onstage, ready for the night's performance.

armed and ready

To perfect their bow for the opening night of the novice play, junior Becca Delmas, seniors Lizzy Ellison and Gadeir Abbas and sophomore Molly Hansonlink arm in unison with the cast. "No one knew their lines," Gadeir said. "Up until Wednesday night, the play was unrepresentable."

line of sight

In the minutes before their dress rehearsal, Aja Aktay, sophomore, gives Sara Dobrinich, sophomore, an aged appearance. Sara tried 10 accents before hammering out her final voice for the novice play. "It was fun, but it was also an art," Sara said.



the curious savage

Production Dates Nov. 15-17

Tickets \$5

Director Mr. Larry Brechner

(first photo) Titus Savage [Joey Manderino, junior] (second photo) Jeff [Matt Domasica, junior] (third photo) Fairy May [Jodi Rosenthal, senior] (last photo) Hannibal [Craig Talbot, sophomore] and Mrs. Savage [Renee Albrecht-Mallinger, junior]



Lenny Weiss, junior



booked solid

While on a break with sophomore Jimmy Bochnowski and senior Lizzy Ellison, sophomore Molly Hanson brushes up on her lines for Lydia, her character in the novice play *Out of Sight, Out of Murder*. Some parts of the script demanded more intense memorization skills than others, according to Molly. "Sometimes it was hard getting out of the book, especially when you had monologues without any cues," Molly said. "Conversational lines were a snap."

TOUGH CROWD

What was the hardest part about...

...casting a play?

"A director always goes into an audition thinking what they wanted for a character. It was harder to cast girls because there weren't as many girl parts [in *Ducks & Lovers*]. We had 60 people trying out for 5 roles."

Christina Bernacchi,
senior

...creating a set?

"You had creative license with a different art form—something people saw at a distance. You had to portray the mood of the play."

Allison Crary, junior

...getting into character?

"It helped if you matched traits. My character in *Out of Sight, Out of Murder* was optimistic. It matched how I usually acted."

Donny Yamtich,
sophomore

ducks & lovers

Production Dates Feb. 14-16

Tickets \$5

Directors seniors Christina Bernacchi and Jodi Rosenthal



(first photo) Yana Latore [Jaime Shapiro, junior] (second photo) Lenya Latore [Erica Kanade, freshman] and Zorka [Marko Medynsky, junior] (third photo) Uncle Alphonse [Matt Domascia, junior] (last photo) June Hathaway [Carolyn Jania, sophomore] and Phillip Hall [Justin Dal Corobbo, sophomore]



sound it out

In unison freshmen Stephanie Frank, Emily Bradley, Nicole Parra, Heather Haneman and sophomore Lauren Cherrier rehearse in the orchestra pit. "The hardest part was learning the music in a short time," Nicole said.

in the spotlight

Wrapped in each other's arms, Prince Christopher [Joey Manderino, junior] and Cinderella [Sara Dobrinich, sophomore] lean in for a kiss. "When you got into the moment and forgot the audience was there, you didn't really think about it," Sara said.



soul search

Imagining what she could do in her fantasy world, Cinderella [Sara Dobrinich, sophomore] sings to herself. Sara didn't expect to receive the part. "I was shocked," Sara said. "I was so thankful, and I couldn't believe it. I was happy they put the faith in me to carry the part."

cinderella

Production Dates May 2-5

Tickets \$6 and \$8

Director Mr. Larry Brechner

(first photo) Joy [Lindsey Ellingsen, sophomore] (second photo) Kristina Kesely, sophomore (third photo) Godmother [Jaime Shapiro, junior] (last photo) King [Matt Domascia, junior] and Queen [Jordan Richardson, senior]





dance diva

Giving the cast notes after rehearsal, Julie Ason, musical choreographer, suggests the dancers work on spacing in the Gavotte while Dr. Timothy Bartlett, music director, Tedi Vlahu, senior, and Amit Shah, junior, listen.

table talk

At the table Joy [Lindsey Ellingsen, sophomore], stepmother [Jodi Rosenthal, senior] and Portia [Christina Bernacchi, senior] treat Cinderella [Sara Dobrinich, sophomore] rudely. "I was told to portray my character as someone with PMS, bad cramps and no Midol," Lindsey said.



Offering stepmotherly advice on how to attract the prince, senior Jodi Rosenthal grabbed and shook sophomore Lindsey Ellingsen's head violently. Before she could move away, Jodi realized that she had caught her daughter's hair in her microphone.

Amid the audience's wild reaction, the two ad libbed a scene to cover up the awkward mistake.

"People were clapping and cheering," Lindsey said. "Reaction added energy to keep the show going. It was easier to keep the character up."

The mishap proved the least of Lindsey's problems. While practicing a fight scene, she tore a foot ligament, fell and sprained an ankle, broke a toe and damaged soft tissue in her arm. To top it off, laryngitis from a sinus infection and bronchitis plagued her.

Even among the problems that occurred, the show still came together into a presentable form, despite initial doubts from some. To palace steward Jimmy Bochnowski, sophomore, the show turned out better than he anticipated.

"It was worth the time because the hard work meant something," Jimmy said.

Although the absence of certain props and unfinished set pieces hindered early rehearsals, the final product materialized just in time. The technical crew first unveiled Cinderella's stage coach on the night before the show. Joey Manderino, junior, noted a difference in performance during "tech week," when all the elements of the show converged.

"It was exciting when we added the orchestra, lighting and costumes because each was a separate piece of the puzzle," Joey said. "When this puzzle was complete, the result was better than anything the Godmother's fairy dust could produce."

Aside from technicalities, the actors' interpretation of lines also took time to perfect. Joey needed patience to deliver his "cheesy" fairy tale lines in a way that made his character believable.

Walking backstage, Lindsey prepared to ignore all her ailments. Relying on steroid shots, breathing treatments, nasal spray and lemon juice, Lindsey fought to perform to her utmost capability.

Battling bronchitis or rehearsing without props, students strive to turn the script of a fairy tale into magic for the spring musical *Cinderella*



Jodi Rosenthal, senior, and Lindsey Ellingsen, sophomore

FACE THE music

changing HANDS

Squirming in their seats or savoring the last few moments, 293 graduates reach the finish and bid farewell to their four years

Catching her reflection off the glass in the Food Court, Megan Schutz, senior, carefully eyed her cap and gown one last time. As the trail of graduates began to trickle out, she placed her tassel to the right and fell into line.

With the June 9 commencement ceremony drawing over a thousand people to the Fieldhouse,

students and parents packed into bleachers and chairs to take part in the 90-minute event. For Megan, however, the intense heat didn't outweigh the true meaning of her graduation.

"I wasn't really looking forward to sitting in a hot gym for six hours," Megan said. "But I thought it was really going to hit me when I went up there. I thought I was going to be up on stage getting my diploma and then just bursting into tears."

For others commencement meant a break from schoolwork and a renewed focus on other

activities. With a feeling of relaxation at the end of the year, Robbie Bielawski, senior, planned to turn energy toward sports and friends over the summer.

"I expected it to feel more like the end, but the day wasn't as emotional as I thought it would be," Julie Sufana, senior, said. "I still had the summer to see my friends, so it wasn't really a final goodbye."

Gold stole in hand, Megan marched through the Commons to the Main Office. Exchanging the garment for her diploma, she tucked the document inside of her red folder and reflected back knowing that she had made the change from students to alumni with the rest of the class.

I expected it to feel more like the end, but the day wasn't as emotional as I thought it would be. I still had the summer to see my friends, so it wasn't really a final goodbye.

Julie Sufana, senior



2002 graduation

Commencement June 9

Valedictorian Adam Wesolowski

Salutatorian Adam Tepper

Graduates 293 seniors

(first photo) Katie Paliga and Emily Montgomery, seniors (second photo) Roger Sheilt and Jennifer Lee, seniors (third photo) Concert Choir (last photo) Dave Ha and Andrew Lautz, seniors





all shook UP

With a grip on his diploma, senior Sean Pikosz receives a final farewell handshake from Principal Michael O'Connor before leaving the stage. As his last year as principal before moving on to Assistant to the Superintendent, Mr. O'Connor highlighted his experiences during the past five years as principal during his address.

two CENTS

Delivering their addresses to the outgoing senior class, seniors Adam Tepper, salutatorian, and Adam Wesolowski, valedictorian, deliver advice. "Graduation was a time to celebrate what childhood basically was and a point at which we can look into a future that was unpredictable and exciting," Wesolowski said.



ready and WAITING

Solemnly heeding the words of salutatorian Adam Tepper, senior, Nicole Miller, Krystle Montella, and Emily Montgomery, seniors await the awarding of the diplomas. While obtaining the spot of runner up, Adam affirmed that grades, as well as fun, had their time and place. "You shouldn't sell yourself short," Adam said. "But if getting an 'A' in a class required that you stayed home every night, you had to realize that getting a 'B' wasn't the end of the world."

AND THE CROWD GOES WILD

Five bands battle to win the love of their fans

As the spotlights glared down onto the stage, Lenny Weiss, junior, ducked behind a baby grand piano. Moments later he reappeared sporting a pink scarf, jeweled pink sunglasses, a fur vest and a top hat in the style of singer Sir Elton John.

Sitting down at the piano, Lenny pounded out the first notes to "Tiny Dancer." At the foot of the drums, the rest of Chocolate Island encouraged the crowd to wave their hands.

"I was a huge fan of Elton John," Lenny said. "His flamboyance in character and dress was funny."

With the crowd on its feet, Chocolate Island played off the students' cheering.

Before Battle began, the manager of the band Transition, Mr. Michael Roman, local attorney, roamed throughout the auditorium with a duffel bag full of free copies of the band's CD *Tunnel Vision*. Students began waving their hands to ensure that the manager saw them.

The cheering continued when the brass section paraded onto the stage during

Free Swim's performance of "Brick House." To finish off his solo, Andrew Lee, sophomore, jumped up and played the air saxophone.

"I felt that we weren't being as exciting as we should have been, and I wanted to energize the crowd," Andrew said. "The crowd seemed pleased with it. Mainly we were there to have fun."

Terrified of Battle, Caitlin Hawryszkow, junior didn't share Andrew's excitement. She feared the things that could go wrong with the performance instead of focusing on the experience.

"I was terrified," Caitlin said. "There were so many things that could have gone wrong, and I wanted everything to run smoothly. I loved to sing, but I had trouble doing it in front of my peers. Later, I loosened up; and it turned fun."

After the last notes emanated from the piano, Lenny ran behind the baby grand piano to change out of his disguise back into his normal clothes. Returning to the stage, Lenny jokingly asked, "Hey, I was gone. Did I miss anything?"

PLUGGED IN

As a guest performer for the group Ball of Confusion, Tedi Vlahu, senior, bows his electric violin during the Dave Matthews Band song "The Stone." "I was like a roadie to some of the other bands that performed in the past," Tedi said. "When I was approached to play I was excited about finally being on stage."



SONG AND DANCE

Barefoot and arms around one another, seniors Andrew Lautz and Joe Fray form a kickline while playing along with Free Swim. Wearing a different set of clothes for

each of the two bands with whom they played, the duo wanted people to remember them. "I was wearing leather pants; you couldn't get more memorable than that," Joe said.



HOP TO IT

Jamming to the beat, juniors Gabi DeLuna, Peach Roman-Lagunas and Lauren Mikler jump to their feet and dance along to the rhythm. "Battle allowed us to see all the talent in the school that not a lot of people got to recognize," Lauren said.



IN TUNE

Tapping out the notes on the synthesizer, Lizzy Ellison, senior, sings a duet with fellow lead singer George Colakovic, senior. "I gained confidence in my abilities and a lot of stage presence," Lizzy said. "I definitely wanted to pursue this as a career."

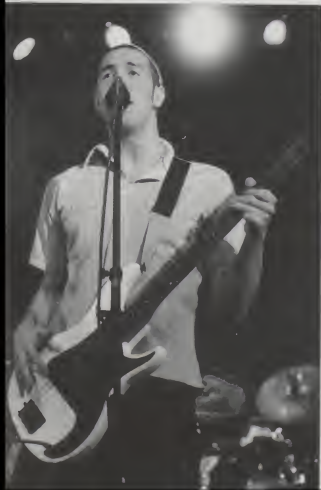
MUSIC NOTES

From a guest appearance by a classic pop icon to an improvisational performance by Free Swim, Battle of the Bands turns out the numbers.

550 approximate tickets sold
2 first-place bands—Uncle George's Playhouse and Free Swim tied

\$3,000 money raised for Riley Children's Hospital

17 average number of hours each band practiced



THAT'S A RAP

In the middle of "Roxanne," George Colakovic, senior, breaks out into a rap. "People didn't realize how hard it was to rap and play the bass line together," George said. "That was the most fun part for me, and the crowd had the best reaction to that."

KEYNOTE SINGER

In his band Chocolate Island, Lenny Weiss, junior, belts out the tunes to "Two Princes" by the Spin Doctors. "I was ecstatic about performing a live show in front of my friends," Lenny said. "It wasn't about the competition, it was about the music."

did you hear?

The hosts of the Talent Show improvise for their skits between each act, resulting in a variety of moments for the audience to leave with even after the event's completion.

•“Oh, man, Mr. Wells, is that a thong?”

•“I am the Great Gabini....Poof!”

•“The teenage pop star Britney Spears came all the way out to Munster.”

•“If you need anything, just ‘escrima!’”

•“We’d like to thank some of the acts that didn’t make it: Suzy’s pet rock and Mrs. Lemon’s fantastic tap dancing.”



on a roll

As co-host of the Talent Show, junior Gabe Culberg impersonates Fred Flintstone for one of his and junior Joey Manderino’s skits. From mimicking actual acts to presenting “Great Gabini” magic tricks, Joey and Gabe provided comic relief for the dead time between each performance. “We hosted as if it were the Oscars or some big gala,” Gabe said.

stick together

Utilizing the Filipino self-defense form of “escrima,” Matt Coduti, freshman, and Lee Coduti, senior, perform a demonstration for the Talent Show. With the help of classes and videotapes, the brothers perfected their techniques together.



strummer boy

As an accompanist for Jennifer Lee, senior, Gadeir Abbas, senior, plays the tune to “Emotions.” “I was confident in my ability to play the part and her ability to sing it,” Gadeir said.



talented two

Belting out the lyrics to a French song called “Sebben Crudele,” Amanda Pogach, freshman, takes the stage with her violin accompanist Julie Nelson, freshman.



using talent for money

Students take the stage and exhibit their talents in a combined effort to raise money for Riley Children's Hospital

With hip hop music reverberating throughout the auditorium, Waheed Nassimi, senior, strolled to center stage. All of a sudden, he leapt, landed on his stomach and thrust his legs up into the air as an explosion of applause emerged from the audience.

Waheed used his ability to break-dance for his act at the Talent Show. Along with three other students, he performed his moves to the beat of "Crystal Method" and "Around the World."

Organized by Student Government, the Talent Show served as a fundraiser for Riley Children's Hospital. The event proved successful when Student Government collected \$1,100, according to Talent Show co-director Lenny Weiss, junior.

"We figured that a Talent Show would be fun both for the ones involved and the audience that came to see the show," Lenny said.

Anxieties arose concerning the event because the school hadn't hosted a Talent Show in years. Mr. Larry A Brechner, auditorium director, expressed uncertainty over how the audience would receive the show. To ensure that it would run smoothly, he designated Munster Theatre Company members Lenny and Matt Domasica, junior, to direct.

With a total of 11 acts, the Talent Show displayed a wide range of student interests. Performances included a bass solo, a Britney Spears dance routine, a piano piece, stand-up comedy, break-dancing and several vocal performances.

"It was a much better turnout than we thought it was going to be," Gabe Culberg, junior, said. "We were pretty worried during the week, but I thought the participants did a great job and impressed the audience."

Although directors faced problems with the novice production, the performers earned the chance to show off their talents. With a combination of student directors and "impressive" acts, the first Talent Show in decades succeeded in raising funds for a charitable cause.

Kristin Gorski, sophomore

bass relief

Just after completing his bass solo, Chris Spedus, freshman, prepares to exit the stage. In the days leading up to the show, less than 10 people had purchased tickets. To the relief of Student Government on the day of the event, however, representatives sold approximately 195 tickets, according to Student Government president Farah Sherif, senior.

keying in

As the seventh act at the Talent Show, Ashley Cajida, junior, plays her piano piece "Czardas." Although Ashley initially felt nervous, she confidently performed for the school audience. "People told me I was good at the piano, so I figured I might as well go for it," Ashley said. "Although the show was at an awkward time, it helped to raise a lot of money."

blanketing the school with election flyers or stocking pantry shelves for Salvation Army, students earn respect by...

STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

Focusing her eyes on a single point on the horizon, Emily Bradley, freshman, strained to move her feet to the beat. Knowing she only had one shot at the position of drum major for the next four years, she locked her mind on using all she had learned.

Vying with four other freshmen for the top spot in band, Emily drew upon five years of musical experience for support. After senior drum majors instructed the candidates on the basics, they turned the underclassmen loose for critiques and auditions to earn the position.

"I was really nervous, like everyone else going into it," Emily said. "But I just loved the music too much to not do it. It was something that you had to put a lot of effort and concentration into."

While upperclassmen often claimed the leadership spots in clubs, Emily found her niche early on as a freshman. However, securing a place in honor organizations such as Quill and Scroll

POLITICALLY CORRECT

With their idea for a protective dome for the school drawn out on posterboard, juniors Mike Stoffregen and Robbie Collins pitch their presidential campaign speech. "I spent three hours trying to get my computer to print stickers," Mike said. "Most of the things we did were fun, though, so I didn't mind spending time on them."

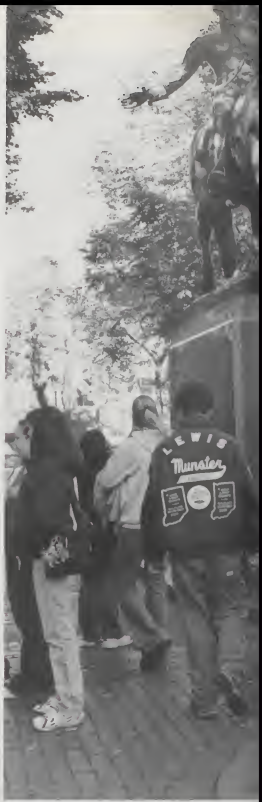
required a few years of intense effort and learning experiences, according to Candice Grant, senior.

"You didn't actually think about it," Candice said. "But finally qualifying was an added bonus. It was a great honor to be recognized for all your hard work."

Willingly working to accept the leadership of the school their senior year, juniors Connie Kuo and Joey Manderino chose to run against two other sets of candidates for spots as the Student Government class leaders. Their efforts demanded hours of work even after school, according to Connie.

"I guess we were just trying to take a leadership role because Student Government always had that stereotype of not doing anything," Connie said. "I had never been in Student Government, only Freshman CEC; but we had a lot of new ideas like stressing awareness outside of school in each grade to unify the people within classes."

Whether hitting the campaign trail or leading the pack, students earned their places at the top of clubs. As Emily heard her name announced as the drum major, she breathed a sigh of relief, proud of her accomplishment and knowing she would take charge her senior year.



THE STANDARDS

Academic Team

Officers:

President
Roger Shieh
Secretary/Treasurer
Tedi Vlahu

Sponsors:

Mr. Donald Uilman
Mr. Mike Wells

Standard deviation:
"We rarely met, and yet we were very successful."

Joe Fray, senior



Academic Team (front row) Sambodhi Das, Bilal Omery, Puja Kathrotiya, Dijita Sudi, Sheiphal Gandhi, Ian Holloway (second row) Denny Lee, Nick Thaera, Andrew Lee, Matt Kasenga, Mike Friedman, Nick Bularzik (third row) Paul Cowgill, Steve Balog, Mike Liszka, Waheed Nassimi, Adam Wesolowski, Rachel Kevin, Deepam Rusia (back row) Doug Coyle, Robbie Collins, Roger Shieh, Matt Guanzon, Tedi Vlahu, Joe Fray, Tim Webb, Roddy Oancea



TOURING TRAILBLAZERS

Canvassing Boston before the start of the national journalism convention, *Crier* and *Paragon* staff members saunter past the historical landmark on the Freedom Trail. Aside from absorbing American History, both publications made the top five in the national "Best in Show" competition.



FLOWER POWER

After collecting 30 points and receiving approval from the faculty, Jayne Holly, senior, trades her carnation for a candle as part of her induction into National Honor Society (NHS). "NHS was a way to help people out," Jayne said. "Everything you were doing was for a good cause."

DOUBLE TAKE

Watching a scene unfold during practice for the winter play *Ducks & Lovers*, seniors Jodi Rosenthal and Christina Bernacchi confer about the performance. The first co-directors of a school production, the team of two encompassed more knowledge than a single person, according to Jodi. "We brought aspects of the theater together," Jodi said. "She knew a lot about the set building, and I brought more about being on stage."



American Sign Language Club (front row) Sambodhi Das, Kelly Markovich, Dominique Mercier, Ashley Gajda, Beth Herrin, Courtney Watkins, Krystle Montella, Jill Young (second row) Lisa Newcomb, Jacqui Hayes, Valerie Myszak, Lauren Smith, Jennifer Pizzuto, Kristie Drudge, Jenna Flores, Jessica Solis (third row) Michelle Peiguss, Joe Rogan, Jillian Martin, Lauren Ziemba, Natalia Paez, Katie Thompson, Jami Claus, Teruo Toyama, Elisse Elias (back row) Amanda Reuter, Lisa Demkowicz, Jamie Lee, Greg Eckrich, Alex Pilawski, Craig Talbot, Chrissy DiCostanzo, Lisa Krismanick

American Sign Language Club

Officers:

President
Jami Claus
Vice President
Jillian Martin
Secretary
Jessica Solis
Treasurer
Kristie Drudge

Sponsor:

Mrs. Lynn Schumacher

Standard Deviation:

"We were actually able to go out and use it. Since there were deaf in the area, there were things we could do."

Mrs. Schumacher



Aquarium Club (front row) Brian Kuhn, Sheri Spolnik, Todd Loden, Jim Knesek, Sambodhi Das, Sara Harvey (second row) Lindsey Steele, Brittany Bohling, Ashley Gajda, Stephanie Coulis, Megan Coyne, Paige Popravak, Alissa Rosario (third row) Leah Shaffer, Kelly Fray, Erin Joseph, Rachel Anderson, Dominique Mercier (back row) Stephanie Bockeb, Craig Talbot, Adam Tepper, Russel Patel, Alex Cheng, Kersten Kelly

Aquarium Club

Officers:

President
Jimmy Knesek
Vice Presidents
Alissa Rosario
Sambodhi Das
Secretaries
Pat Hansen
Sarah Harvey
Treasurers
Paige Popravak
Joe Gogolak

Sponsor:

Mrs. Jennifer Luksich
Standard Deviation:
"We enhanced the school environment with aquatic life."
Jim Knesek, sophomore

from suggestion boxes to
Borders gift wrapping,
clubs give students the
chance to get...

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Armed with a roll of tape and a stack of posters asking students to "Incite Hope," junior Amber Jernigan set out to attract members for a newly founded club called Amnesty International (AI).

"With Amnesty International you could write letters to a government and actually make a real difference in someone else's life," Amber said.

Seniors Candice Grant, Farah Sheriff and Adam Wesolowski started the club to raise global awareness and offer students a chance to speak out about human rights. Since AI only began in April, the founders mostly focused on setting a foundation for future years.

"We wanted to give students the means to act and not feel so helpless in light of all the horrific human rights violations occurring daily," Candice said.

Like Amnesty, clubs such as SADD, CEC and Student Government let students play an active role in the school.

To fulfill a campaign promise, Student Government president Farah put a suggestion box in Student Services to find out what students wanted. The chance to lead appealed to Farah.

"I liked being behind the scenes," Farah said. "As president, I could put personal input into running the school."

The school newspaper *Crier* provided another forum for students to articulate their stand on issues.

"We tried to use the paper to get ideas out there that would improve situations," Editor-in-chief Keith Dell'Aquila, senior, said. "After Sept. 11 our editorial said that we had to band together but still to ask questions and not blindly follow."

SADD members attempted to show their peers the consequences of their decisions on drug use or drunk driving.

"It allowed me to get my voice out there and let people know that if you made the right decision, it would help you all the way through life," Kristi Smith, sophomore, said.

Whether crusading to raise awareness or simply express an opinion, clubs offered the forums to do so. As she taped up the last flyer, Amber felt satisfied with her work to give students an active voice.

SIGN LANGUAGE

Before the 37th annual Speech and Debate Chicken Barbecue, Colin Kern, senior, hangs up signs recognizing patrons of the team.



THE STANDARDS

Art Club

Officers:

President
Jessie Wilks
Secretary
Alyssa Hathaway
Treasurer
Katy Creagh

Sponsor:

Mrs. Linda Haynes

Standard Deviation:

Members did more
hands-on work in
Art Club



Art Club (front row) Jessie Wilks, Tosca Salvacion, Kris Duray, Erin McGuan, Beth Herrin, Ashley Gajda, Katy Creagh (second row) Lucy Brown, Aja Aktay, Carolyn Jania, Anna Borgo, Taryn Lotak, Lauren Biel (third row) Danielle Wilks, Marko Medynsky, Jason Jozwiak, Sangeeta Bookseller, Amanda Porta (back row) Ashley McNabney, John Tomazin, Simone Castaneda, Craig Talbot, Amanda Manoski, Arnab Dasgupta, Kristina Kesely

Auditorium Staff

Officers:

Production Manager
Christina Bernachi
Technical Director
Joel Moosmiller

Sponsor:

Mr. Larry Brechner

Standard Deviation:

"We serviced all events in the Auditorium. Not only did the staff work in-school plays, they also got the experience of out-of-school performances."

Mr. Brechner



Auditorium Staff (front row) Sarah Papin, Nikki Williamson, Colleen Summers, Nicole Rogers, Stacey Welsh, Jackie Schneider, Missy Kerzner, Amanda Fogach (second row) Christina Bernachi, Austin Grow, Julie Kiekenapp, Chris Sipes, Michelle Miskimins, Elizabeth VanWieren, Kristen Kendall, Nicole Parra, Julie Nelson (third row) Andrew Bridgman, Lisa Demkowicz, Rachel Kevin, Esther Economou, James Manuel, Imran Abbasi, Emily Bradley, Genevieve Grina (back row) Amber Jernigan, Beth Bradley, Joel Moosmiller, Craig Talbot, Dan Phillips, Mike McCullough, Kristina Kesely, David Murks



HAMMING IT UP

Between acts juniors Joey Manderino and Gabe Culberg add a twist of humor to Student Government's Talent Show, which raised about \$1000 for Riley Children's Hospital.

STICK TO IT

To attract members, junior Janushi Dalal hangs up signs for Amnesty International's first call-out meeting.



PERFECT TIMING

Mimicking each other's movements, senior Nick Bularzik and junior Megan Leahy practice conducting as a part of their duties as drum majors. The band depended on them to stay in time while performing for all the crowds at football games.



Band, Marching (front row) Brian Wujek, Kyle Bieda, Doug Boyer, Janet Pleitner, Marcus Hammonds, Darcie Kozlowski, Daniel Albrecht-Mallinger, Stacy Frank, Nick Bularzik, Katie Kooy, Steve Balog (second row) Robert Schoon, Kristi Skrundz, Lindsey Ellingsen, Chris Sipes, Lee Coduti, Matt Whitlatch, Jenny Nelson, Kori Chapman, Shreyas Joshi (third row) Valerie Umlauf, Ray Fandl, Jenn Zivich, Kellie Creighton, Andrew Sulkowski, Meghan Kosiba, Melissa Boeckman, Melissa Diekelmann, Lisa Murray, Chris Fykosz, Kevin Wadycki (fourth row) Ben Stork, Niki Cacich, Sheri Mehok, Dan Wick, Ryan Szanyi, Clark Wick, Greg Curran, Amanda Reuter, Emily Bradley, Eric LaMagdeleine (back row) Marko Djuric, Robbie Collins, Paul Sikora, Andrew Sharp, Mark Sikora, Keith Lorenz, Adam Wallace, Jeff Schmidt, Jonathan Meacham, David Zagorski, Eric Wallace



Band, Marching (front row) Josh Raycroft, Jessica Orzel, Neeraj Prasad, Michelle Miskimins, Adam Hirsch, Bill Marinakos, Jynne Jedrejczak, Shephali Gandhi, Renee Albrecht-Mallinger (second row) Stephanie Scully, Heather Haneman, Rachel Minich, Darryl Wenner, Jenna Candiano, Suman Rao, Stephanie Frank, Stacy Zuick, Allison Chelgren, Nicole Parra (third row) Christen Chapman, Corrie Cummins, Kelly Markovich, Kristen Moran, Rachel Gill, Marko Medynsky, Jonathan Rich, Kristina Stephan, Gina Selent, Mike Roman, Kelly Simmons (back row) Vita Lazauskas, Theo Logan, Matt Coduti, Melody Spasoff, Chris Mihalo, Diana Cox, Helen Stoka, TJ Surma, Steve Hus, Drew Koessler, Megan Leahy, Madelyne Stenger

Marching Band

Officers:
Senior Drum Major
Nick Bularzik
Junior Drum Major
Megan Leahy
Sophomore Drum
Major
Brian Carragher

Sponsor:
Mr. Bill Woods
Mr. Ken Wood

Standard Deviation:
The group took a trip over spring break to the Rock and Roll and Pro-Football Halls of Fame.

DYNAMIC DUO

With their Speech binders in hand, freshmen Cara Witecki and Amanda Pogach practice their duo for the meet next Saturday.



LIGHTEN UP

All smiles, choir director Dr. Tim Bartlett, senior Karen Lindemann, sophomore Lauren Wright and junior Megan Higgins sing at a breast cancer ceremony at Community Hospital.



HIT THE ROAD

Marching down Calumet Avenue in front of the marching band, sophomore Lindsey Ellingsen and junior Janet Pleitner twirl flags during the September Homecoming parade.



THE STANDARDS

Jazz Band

Sponsor:
Mr. Ken Wood
Standard Deviation:
The Jazz Combo performed for an audience at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame over spring break



Jazz Band (front row) Kristen Moran, Marko Medynsky, Kyle Bieda, Chris Mihalo, Tina Shieh (second row) Steve Hus, Darcie Kozlowski, Shreyas Joshi, Lee Coduti, Chirag Barai, Doug Boyer (back row) Ryan Szanyi, Robbie Collins, Keith Lorenz, Adam Wallace, Robert Schoon

Freshman CEC

Officers:
President
Sarah Liszka
Vice President
Chris Hernandez
Secretary
Lucy Brown
Treasurer
Brittany Bohling
Sponsor:
Mrs. Jackie Podkul
Mrs. Nancy Newcomb



Class Executive Council, Freshman (first row) Brittany Bohling, Danica Rajcevic (back row) Lucy Brown, Sarah Liszka, Alyssa DeBold

between fears of dropping a flag and thrills of dazzling a live audience, clubs send students...

MARCHING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

As a loud voice from behind announced his turn to speak, David Pavkovich, freshman, stood in front of a judge for his first performance of a humorous interpretation at a speech meet.

After popping into the wrong character in his piece "This is a Test," David sweated through the rest of the round and anticipated the ending.

"I choked on a line under my breath," David said. "I had such a deep voice that if I didn't enunciate, it got caught in my lungs. It got me more nervous since all the focus was on me. I pulled out of it at the end, but by then it was too late."

Mistakes like David's occurred during all types of performances, whether fellow musicians covered them up or actors disguised them by ad libbing. Ashley Troumouliaris, sophomore, recognized the importance of not letting mistakes affect a presentation as a member of Mixed Ensembles and Munster Theater Company.

"Everyone made mistakes, but the key to performing was to not let the audience know," Ashley said. "The mistake may have seemed huge to you, but the audience hadn't spent as much time with what you were performing as you had. So it was nearly impossible to tell you had made a mistake."

SOUND OFF

With fellow band members, Josh Raycroft, sophomore, plays his trumpet. "It wasn't nerve-racking when others were with you," Josh said.

In addition to Speech and Debate, other clubs tackled the ordeal of judged competition. Steve Hus, freshman, enjoyed the satisfaction of knowing people would see him play his trombone during shows; but he also recognized the hardships of competing at ISSMA for both Jazz and Concert Band.

"I had a good feeling because someone professional judged it," Steve said. "But a lot of times you didn't get what you thought you deserved. Judges didn't look at details as much as you wanted."

Steve recognized that to make Jazz Band, students needed to outperform all who auditioned. In order to do well, Steve attended three practices a week, which included one sectional and two rehearsals. David spent up to two hours each week practicing by himself or with coaches before a tournament.

In addition to regular practice, the Colorguard made two or three alterations to a seven-to-ten-minute routine and had to change one routine about seven times, according to Jenny Nelson, junior. Still, Colorguard provided a fun and challenging experience for Jenny.

"It was not as easy as it looked," Jenny said. "We had to walk and twirl and listen to music at the same time. Without any coordination, it was impossible."

(continued on 89)

MIRROR MIRROR

While talking to junior Matt Domasica, director of the novice play, sophomore Molly Hanson draws in wrinkles to make her appear older.



Class Executive Council, Sophomore (front row) Emily Stine, Jimmy Bochnowski, Darius Bamboat, Maria Stopper, Nikki Bland, Tosca Salvacion (back row) Laura Lautz, Kate Laudermilk, Todd Dell'Aquila, Ashley Damjanovich, Lauren Cherrier, Mike Friedman

Sophomore CEC

Officers:

President
Darius Bamboat
Vice President
Kate Laudermilk
Laura Lautz
Treasurer
Mike Friedman
Secretary
Lauren Cherrier

Sponsor:

Mr. Carl Fields

Standard Deviation:

Lets interested class members work together



ALL TIED UP

Before a concert freshmen Billy Marinakos and Andrew Sharp adjust their ties. "I was always fearful to mess up," Andrew said. "For a solo you worried about the first note you sang; but if you practiced enough, it always came through."

BRASS BLAST

At jazz band practice, freshmen Steve Hus and Doug Boyer and senior Adam Wallace play their trombones. Steve valued the benefits of practice. "When I played a part well, I had the satisfaction of knowing all the hours of practice paid off," Steve said.



CENTER STAGE

Dressed as a bitter old spinster, Fiona (Becca Delmas, junior) complains to Peter (Gadeir Abbas, senior) during the novice play *Out of Sight, Out of Murder*. Becca didn't have many fears when performing. "I felt good on-stage because I liked the attention," Becca said. "I worked hard to learn lines, so I was pretty sure of myself."



THE STANDARDS

Junior CEC

Officers:
President
Robbie Collins
Vice President
Peach Roman-Lagunas
Secretary
Katie Schlesinger
Treasurer
Chris Carlos

Sponsor:
Miss Valerie Pflum
Mr. Mike Coll

Standard Deviation:
Raising spirit with the Homecoming class float



Class Executive Council, Junior (front row) Sarah Moseley, Lauren Mikler, Lauren Hamblin, Chris Carlos, Lisa Rietmann (back row) Katie Schlesinger, Mike Hellen, Robbie Collins, Jillian Hmurovic, Peach Roman-Lagunas, David Ellis

Senior CEC

Sponsor:
Miss Kristine Moore
Ms. Lisa Horner
Standard Deviation:
Having the job of making decisions for the entire Senior Class



Class Executive Council, Senior (front row) Katy Stine, Stephanie Zeck, Yasemin Zeytinoglu, Christina Guzik, Angie Meyers (back row) Erin Kolb, Joe Rogan, Adam Tepper, Tim Webb, Amanda Spivey



MARCHING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

(continued from 87)



After finalizing the choreography, the possibility of last-minute changes loomed. In October before a certain football game, rain poured down all day; and mud covered the field. The girls refused to do the groundwork in their routine. Instead, before the game they whipped up a little dance to counter the problem. They twirled until their jazz shoes sunk into the mud and started coming off.

Along with performance came an audience, ranging from a single judge to an entire auditorium in the case of Sara Dobrinich, sophomore, who played the lead role in the spring musical *Cinderella*. She didn't mind a crowd in front of her.

"Big audiences were the best," Sara said. "Any audience was great. With big ones I felt like I carried so much more. When there was good crowd reaction, it totally added to your performance. You did better and just went for it. Once you were out there, nothing stopped you. You were having the time of your life."

Sara didn't always execute perfect performances. In the novice play *Out of Sight*, *Out of Murder*, Gadeir Abbas, senior, gave her the cue line to leave when her part had just begun.

"I said, 'Oh no, I think I'm going to stay,'" Sara said. "I pushed him over and

sat down. I didn't have a very big part, so I wouldn't let him kick me off!"

Live performance and spontaneity excited some actors. Matt Domasica, junior, whose stage fright had disappeared with years of theater experience under his belt, described acting as exhilarating.

"Anything could happen onstage," Matt said. "It was never the same. You could make mistakes and turn them into something more fun and even better. It kept you on your toes."

Matt even took his theater experience to the next level—from performing to directing. He explained the large differences between the two jobs.

"Directing was much harder since I had to let go of the control once the actors were onstage," Matt said. "During opening night of my show, the bookcase fell over. I ran backstage; but by the time I got there, the maid and the butler went out to clean it up and everyone laughed. It was one of my scariest moments."

Between the thrills and terrors of performing, club members experienced a variety of unexpected situations. Even after David's initial mistake, he mustered the courage to hit the next rounds head on, knowing full well that he could make the audience laugh if he tried.

REEL WORLD

Carefully positioning the camera, Video Club president, Jovica Balac, junior, films the student presidential campaign speeches. "It was mind-numbing to sit in front of the camera for so long when it was something you weren't really part of," Jovica said.

THE TROUBLES

Dressing up for the Ensembles concert, sophomore Susan Valand receives help with her tie from sophomore Lauren Banas. At every concert Women's Glee Club members had to wear a uniform to make the group look more professional.



Colorguard (front row) Diana Cox, Gina Seilent, Kelly Markovich (back row) Jenn Zivich, Jenny Nelson, Lindsey Ellingsen, Janet Pleitner

Colorguard

Officers:

Captain
Jenn Zivich
Co-captain
Diana Cox

Sponsor:

Ms. Nicole Ritter
Standard Deviation:
"We piqued enough peoples' interest to double our numbers from last year."

Jenn Zivich, junior



FORWARD MARCH

Positioned on opposite sides of the Marching Mustangs' banner, freshmen Niki Cacich and Neerja Prasad march down Ridge Road during the Homecoming parade.



FRENCH CONNECTION

After school in the Food Court, copresident Rich Williamson, senior, tacks streamers onto the ceiling at French Club's Mardi Gras party.

SINGLE FILE

Adding to his debate research, Jia Hou, sophomore, inserts a folder into his evidence bin. "It was information we could use to cite legitimate sources," Jia said. "You had to be fairly analytical and logical [in debate]."



THE STANDARDS

Crier

Officers:
Editor-in-chief
Keith Dell'Aquila
Managing Editor
Rob Zaony
Copy Editor
Sharyn Goldyn

Sponsor:
Mrs. Nancy Hastings

Standard Deviation:
Selected as one of three Indiana High School Press Association Merit Award winners



Crier (front row) Alex Cheng, Connie Kuo, Sharyn Goldyn, Alice Lanman, Leslie Parker, Mrs. Nancy Hastings (*second row*) Lindsay Baranowski, Dave Watson, Jeff Furticella, Dustin Moriarty, Katie Schlesinger (*back row*) Joey Manderino, Keith Dell'Aquila, Rob Zaony, Jon McCullough, Ted Creagh

DECA

Officers:
President
Kara Williams
Vice President
Adam Stuebe
Secretary
Kristen Brazel
Treasurer
Jon Kutas

Sponsor:
Mr. Kent Lewis

Standard Deviation:
"DECA wasn't an ordinary club because we competed in ways that built skills to improve our knowledge of the business world."

Dave Los, senior



DECA (front row) Nicki Pavnick, Athena Bakris, Aja Aktay, Brian Hmurovic, Puja Kathrotiya, Adam Spungen, Sapna Shah, Jenna Flores, Emily L. Jones (*second row*) Kara Williams, Stephanie Volkoff, David Kaplan, Nicole Van Cuna, Teruo Toyama, Adam Stuebe, Jillian Martin, Amanda Porta (*third row*) Krystle Montella, Brian Mayer, Russel Patel, Lauren Morelli, Natalia Paez, Mark Sellers, Leah Shaffer, Jon Silverman (*fourth row*) Randy Hoyle, Kevin Kutansky, Adam Kaufman, Mike Kalina, Dave Los, Tom Dwar, David Hansen, Nate Holobowski (*back row*) Ashley Chemerinsky, Amber Jernigan, Jillian Balazs, Maxwell Ntiemoah, Robert Zyzalo, Cindy Wisniewski, Holly Grunewald, Kristin Tanzillo, Sonal Gupta, Kristen Brazel



guided by their love for an activity, students unlock opportunities clubs offer by...

OPENING NEW DOORS



Ants for teamwork. Peacocks for individuality. Elephants for the importance of family.

Engulfed in the creatures' vibrant colors, Art Club vice president Anna Borgo, junior, admired the beginnings of a mural that would later decorate the children's ward of Community Hospital. Catering to a children's motif, the artwork contained animals symbolizing positive traits kids could understand.

From a young age, art had played a central role in Anna's life.

"I was a nut about art," Anna said. "It was kind of a refuge. I could be myself. If I was with art people, I didn't have to worry about what they thought of me."

Since first grade Anna had enrolled in art classes every semester to keep herself sane during the year. For other students who couldn't squeeze art into their schedule, Art Club offered the perfect solution, according to Anna.

LOADING UP

Around 8 a.m. seniors Jason Maldonado and Deepam Rusia load the Speech and Debate bus for State. "My desire to destroy the competition woke me up by the time I got [to the meet]," Deepam said. "I liked the exhilarating combat of ideas."

"There were a lot of required courses at Munster," Anna said. "A lot of art fanatics didn't have time to take an art class. [With Art Club] people could go after school at least for a little bit. It was another opportunity for them to participate in something artistic."

Students embarked on other artistic endeavors such as producing their own television show. As president of Video Club, Jovica Balac, junior, gained behind-the-scenes experience with editing, filming and other camera techniques.

"There were so many interesting things you could do," Jovica said. "Our show was called 'Uncut.' It was a bunch of random skits, mostly comedy, like a 'Saturday Night Live' sort of thing."

Despite its creative efforts, Video Club ran into difficulty trying to air its program on Public Access television due to the political incorrectness of the show's

(continued on 92)

TREE TRIMMING

To spread the holiday spirit, Chris Carlos, junior, wraps tinsel around a Christmas tree in the Publications room. "We were purposely making the tree ugly as a joke," Chris said. "We tried to relieve the intensity often found during deadline time."



Mixed Ensembles

Sponsor:

Dr. Timothy Bartlett
Standard Deviation:
"Mixed Ensembles represented the highest level of choral musicianship at Munster High School."
Dr. Bartlett

Ensembles, Mixed (front row) Jordan Richardson, Katie Szwelka, Vita Lazauskas, Colleen Summers, Jennifer Lee (second row) Ashley Troumouliaris, Lenny Weiss, Kyle Bieda, Marko Medynsky, Chris Barnes, Ann Fabert (back row) Mike McCullough, Doug Coyle, Gabi DeLuna, Mike Friedman, Joey Manderino



OPENING NEW DOORS

(continued from 91)

content in previous years. Mixed Ensembles, on the other hand, faced no problems in showcasing its talents. By performing at concerts and gigs, members shared their love for singing with others. Matt Domasica, junior, didn't realize how much he loved singing until Dr. Timothy Bartlett, music teacher, recommended he audition for the group.

"I had really never sung before," Matt said. "In middle school it wasn't cool to sing. When I found out I could, it was fun for me. It made me feel good."

While some clubs brought students with similar passions together, others let individuals with more uncommon interests shine. When Jimmy Knesek, sophomore, learned that Aquarium Club had died from a lack of student enthusiasm, he sought to revive it.

"I decided I wanted to form it [Aquarium Club] my freshman year," Jimmy said. "But the teacher I asked to sponsor it didn't want to."

Instead of giving up after the first try, Jimmy waited until his sophomore year to ask Ms. Jennifer Luksich, English teacher, if she would sponsor the organization. Ms. Luksich agreed, and Aquarium Club officially returned.

Fifty students signed up to join the club, but only twenty-five or thirty acted as dedicated members, according to Jimmy. These students visited the Shedd Aquarium, cleaned the fish tanks in the science room and raised mosquito fish to donate to ponds around the town.

By taking the initiative, Jimmy brought back to life a club to suit his own personal taste. In contrast, organizations such as Spanish Club never encountered problems attracting students each year. The group traveled to the Nuevo León restaurant and the Mexican Fine Arts museum. President Emily Montgomery, senior, explained that since students learned the language in class, Spanish Club focused on the Hispanic lifestyle.

"We didn't really speak the language; it was more about culture," Emily said. "I thought you should know what Spanish was about and the way they lived, especially since there were so many different Spanish-speaking countries."

Through the zesty flavor of mole sauce or splashes of color on a mural, students unveiled clubs that matched their interests. Anna hoped the colorful animals on the mural would brighten a young child's day in the future.



THE STANDARDS

Women's Ensembles

Sponsor:

Dr. Timothy Bartlett



Ensembles, Women's (front row) Erica Ranade, Sarah Bradish, Kelly McWilliams, Rachel Caselton, Esther Economou, Amanda Pogach **(second row)** Dijita Sundi, Jackie Schneider, Richelle Medellin, Sara Dobrinich, Raechelle Medellin, Jackie Doeschler, Lauren Wright **(third row)** Anna Borgo, Megan Higgins, Amber Jernigan, Coleen Adley, Natalie Clippert, Katie Paiga, Christina Bernacchi, Molly Hanson **(back row)** Karen Lindemann, Jayne Holly, Thea Logan, Meghan Kosba, Kristina Kesely, Jillian Hmurovic, Caitlin Hawryszkow, Lindsey Ellingsen, Katie Schlesinger

French Club

Officers:

President
James Olasebikan
Rich Williamson
Vice President
Alice Lanman
Paige Wagner
Secretary
Mike Stoffregen
Treasurer
Steve Coulis

Sponsor:

Mrs. Alyce Mart-Webb
Standard Deviation:
The club didn't demand 100% attendance, but all parties and field trips tied into the language



French Club (front row) Mrs. Alyce Mart-Webb, Christina Guanzon, Jenny Nelson, Jenn Zivich, Nidhi Kansal, Jason Szanyi, Stephanie Bobeck, Athena Bakris **(second row)** Paige Popravak, Katy Creagh, Sara Gregson, Lauren Cherrier, Laura Laute, Aja Akay, Carolyn Jania, Ashley Troumoularis, Liz Anderson, Sheri Spolnik **(third row)** Rich Williamson, Paige Wagner, Daniel Larson, Mike Stoffregen, James Olasebikan, Katie Austgen, Candice Grant, Zach Lambert, Vanessa Alvarado **(fourth row)** Dustin Moriarty, Coleen Adley, Alice Lanman, Natalie Clippert, Steve Coulis, Ryan Szanyi, Marica Coduti, Rachel Kevin, Adam Wesolowski, Lauren Mikler **(back row)** Jason Dillon, Mirjana Lakich, Zach Holobowski, Tim Webb, Matt Guanzon, Jon Pleitner, Josh Levin, Branka Bastaic, Arnab Dasgupta



PADDLE BATTLE

Ready to compete, Jeff Harris, junior, hangs out in the Commons for the Ping Pong Club tournament.

STROKE OF CREATIVITY

With a shrug Anna Borgo, junior, throws out ideas for the Art Club mural with Katy Cneagh, senior, who wanted to teach art. "I loved helping others understand art," Katy said.



CUT AND DRY

Seated Indian-style in front of scattered scraps of paper, sophomores Sara Gregson and Emily Alberti paste their speech piece into a binder. With a combination of interpretive and extemporaneous events, speech members could find their niche in either acting or current events.



French Club (front row) Beth Herrin, Neema Shah, Sonal Gupta, Rachel Gosicj, Diana Cox, Kelly Markovich, Marnan Campos, Gina Selent, Lydia Carle, Vita Lazauskas, Sarah Moseley, A.J. Skinner, Ashley Velchek, Giane Salvacion, Kelly Amaloo, Jilly Pasztor (third row) Diane Petrovic, Jeff Trogovich, Neel Shah, Amit Shah, Pete Kubacki, Phil Kubacki, Chris Mihalo, Waheed Nassimi (back row) Sambodhi Das, Natalie Belkairous, Michelle Peiguss, Lindsay Baranowski, Rachel Franklin, Genevieve Grdina, Sarah-Anne Lanman, Branka Romic



WIRED UP

Wire clippers in hand, Ian Holloway, junior, fashions a device for the upcoming Academic Team competition. Interested in more than one subject area, Ian entered multiple events.

CULTURE TIES

As she snips yarn, Esther Economou, junior, prepares for Oktoberfest. Esther took pride in her 75-percent German heritage and in the language. "I liked German; it wasn't as used as languages like Spanish," Esther said.

Sparking new
friendships and
good times,
students...

KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

After just completing his performance at the ISSMA regional competition, David Chen, freshman, found a way to lighten the mood. As a practical joke, he smeared white frosting all over the face of Chetan Chaubal, freshman.

Within moments, Chetan placed Fritos in his hair. A little while later, the crowd of freshman musicians could barely control themselves.

"We were just so tense," Chetan said. "Every single time we competed, we got second. This time we just didn't care, and we wanted to have fun."

Aside from students who joined clubs to spice up their college applications, others participated in activities for the social benefits. Jason Gott, freshman, joined the Speech Team knowing only one person in his event. But as time passed, he got to know a lot more people on a personal level, according to Jason.

"Everyone needed to join a club because making new friends was one of the most important things you could do," Jason said. "By creating new relationships with other people, you could judge how you were as a person. Your personality was reflected by the kind of people you had a relationship with and the type of relationship you shared."

Students who joined organizations to find time with friends also met more teenagers with similar interests and skills. Amy Heaney, freshman, initially signed up for the foreign language clubs because a lot of her classmates joined the same activities, and she ended up expanding her number of friends in the process.

"I was able to meet so many people from other language classes and different grades," Amy said. "These were people who I wouldn't have met before."

Clubs offered students the chance to forge friendships with other people and to strengthen their old ties. Because friends couldn't always see each other as much as they liked, active participation allotted them time to talk and interact, according to Tina Shieh, freshman.

(continued on 96)

ROCK THE FLOAT

Atop the German Club float during the Homecoming parade, club members reveal their "tin man in lederhosen." Seniors Nick Bularzik and Mike Liszka built the structure three days prior to the event. "German Club helped us do things that we wouldn't normally do outside of school," Mike said.

ON DECK

To keep his mind off his next [speech] round, Dan Witkus, sophomore, picks up the cards during a game of Uno. Dan often struck up a game between friends to relax. "When you had a bad round, your friends were there to cheer you up," Dan said.





THE STANDARDS



German Club (front row) Missy Kerzner, Sarah Papin, Krissy Herbeck, Ashley Velchek, Jovica Balac, Sambodhi Das, Holly Grunewald, Mike Lee, Shannon Zenas, Katie Lindowski, Stacy Zurek (second row) Michelle Miskimins, Alexis Boyan, Sheri Spolnick, Emily Alberti, James Manuel, John Camp, Mark Evans, Alex Gikas, Mark Hannigan, Paige Poppravak, Jenny Fell (third row) Stacy Welsh, Valerie Umlauf, Amanda Stump, Mike Van Wyk, Karl Spork, Emilee Vandervliet, Brian Wujek, Laura Hruska, Steve Hus (fourth row) Mike McCullough, Lizz Osborne, Jen Vacendak, Nick Thera, Richard Nidhele, Kyle Rise, Zach Lambert, Nick Balarzik, Mike Liszka, Nick Kikalos (back row) Euna Choi, Kelley O'Brien, Steven Coulis, Rachel Kevin, Russel Patel, Jon Kutas, Pete Ciric, Claire Robertson, John Nootens, Michael Thompson, Mike Stoffregen

German Club

Officers:

President
Karl Spork
Vice President
Aubrey Burdeau
Secretary
Michelle Miskimins
Treasurer
Jimmy Honnes

Sponsor:

Mrs. Sue Durkin
Standard Deviation:
The group explored German culture



Munster Theatre Company

Officers:

President
Jodi Rosenthal
Vice President
Matt Domascia
Lenny Weiss

Sponsor:

Mr. Larry Brechner
Standard Deviation:
It was the only club dealing with the production of performing arts where outstanding members are rewarded at the Equus Awards

Munster Theatre Company (front row) Jackie Schneider, Stacy Welsh, Nikki Williamson, Erica Ranaide, David Johnson, Jimmy Bochnowski, Colleen Summers, Nicole Rogers, Chris Sipes, Missy Kerzner (second row) Sarah Papin, Jaine Shapiro, Christina Bernaschi, Rebecca Delmas, Justin DalCorobbo, David Murks, Imran Abbasi, Kristen Kendall, Julie Kiekenapp, Amanda Pogach, James Manuel (third row) Elizabeth VanWien, Megan Higgins, Lenny Weiss, Molly Hanson, Carolyn Jania, Jodi Rosenthal, Sara Dobrinich, Caitlin Hawryszkow, Lauren Mikler, Allison Cray, Esther Economou (fourth row) Michelle Miskimins, Gadeir Abbas, Jordan Richardson, Jayne Holly, Lindsey Ellingsen, Lisa Demkowicz, Rachel Kevin, Ashley Troumouliaris, Genevieve Gedina, Julie Sufana, Stephanie Coulis (back row) Joey Manderino, Andrew Bridgman, Beth Bradley, Craig Talbot, Dan Phillips, Joel Moosmiller, Mike McCullough, Austin Grow, Kristina Kesely



National Honor Society

Officers:

President
Karen Lindemann
Vice President
Katy Stine
Secretary
Amanda Spivey
Treasurer
Farah Sheriff

Sponsor:

Mrs. Linda Scheffer
Standard Deviation:
"We had to help people. The people in it had to do their part. They couldn't just come to the yearbook picture."

Katy Stine, senior

National Honor Society (front row) Lauren Eidam, Amanda Spivey, Katy Stine, Julie Sufana, Lindsey Serna, Jenny Fell, Emily Montgomery, Stephanie Zeck, Jessie Wilke, Farah Sheriff (second row) Bilal Omery, Candice Grant, Jennifer Lee, Megan Schuch, Colleen Summers, Katie Thompson, Jillian Martin, Mike Liszka, Samantha Watanapongse, Ariana Rebecco, Paige Wagner (third row) Christina Guzik, Lee Coduti, Teruo Toyama, Josh Bradish, Monica Aldulescu, Adam Wesolowski, Kyle Bieda, Nick Balarzik, Andy DeYoung, Karen Lindemann (fourth row) Tim Webb, Erica Rangel, Amanda Manoski, Jayne Holly, Jordan Richardson, Andrew Lautz, Gadeir Abbas, Lauren Ziemba, Jeff French (back row) Jess Wilson, Matt Mikels, Tedi Vlahu, Dan Kohnen, Adam Wallace, Roger Shieh, Joe Fray, Mike Vrabel, Chrissy DiCostanzo, Evy Watterson, Katy Creagh

Orchestra

Officers:

Concert Master
Tedi Vlahu

Sponsor:

Mr. Karl Linden
Ms. Jill Cooke
Standard Deviation:
"We met every day while other clubs didn't. We knew our constant practice paid off because of the awards we won, like first at ISMAA State."

Casey Kolderup, junior



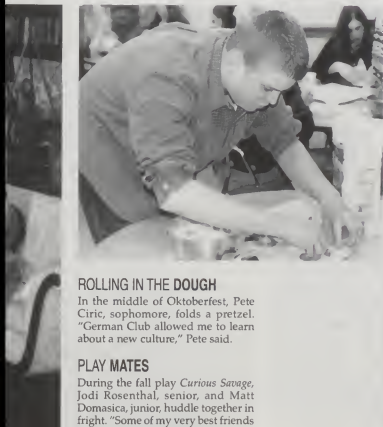
Orchestra (front row) Katie Daniels, Megan Gleason, Kristen Gleason, Helen Stoka, Murad Omery, Megan Leahy, Ashley Velchek, Goran Zarkovic, Tina Shieh, Connie Ko (second row) Krystle Murray, Nicole Parra, Andrew Schutz, Chetan Chaubal, Amit Shah, Sainantha Watanapongse, Jawad Omery, Heather Haneman, Suman Rao, Marnan Campos, Shivan Sharma (third row) Steve Hus, Eric Drabenstorf, Alex Gikas, Darcie Koudowski, Lauren Cherrie, Stephanie Rangel, David Oabb, Ryan Anderson, Chris Ondo, Elise Eldert (back row) Talla Matyary-Vacaro, Lisa Demkowicz, Ashley Damjanovich, Jeff Schmidt, Mark Sikora, Tedi Vlahu, Jordan Richardson, Emily Bradley, Erica Rangel

ROLLING IN THE DOUGH

In the middle of Oktoberfest, Pete Ciric, sophomore, folds a pretzel. "German Club allowed me to learn about a new culture," Pete said.

PLAY MATES

During the fall play *Curious Savage*, Jodi Rosenthal, senior, and Matt Domascia, junior, huddle together in fright. "Some of my very best friends in life came out of theater," Jodi said.



KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

(continued from 94)

"Joining clubs gave you the time to socialize and catch up," Tina said. "This way you got to keep up with friends and still maintain your grades academically."

Along with the time spent with friends at field trips and tournaments came lasting memories. Those types of experiences gave students something to remember for the years after high school and taught club members valuable lessons, according to David Ellis, junior.

"By joining a lot of clubs you became well-rounded," David said. "It exposed you to a lot of different experiences and skills that you could use in the future."

With the future rapidly approaching, students learned the skills needed to make an easy passage from high school to college. In a sea of new faces, the ability to adapt to any group facilitated the transition, according to David.

"It was easier to meet people knowing different things," David said. "In a club you learned skills that you could've used in the future to meet even more people, people who had similar interests and who had the same skills."

The wide selection of interest offered to students expanded with the advent of Ping Pong Club. Over 70 students

crowded into the room of sponsor Ms. Valerie Pflum, math teacher, for the first call-out meeting of the year. Although the number of members waned as the year wore on, students regularly filled the Commons on Fridays to watch and participate in the activities.

"Unlike a lot of other activities, Ping Pong Club was purely to let people interact socially and to sit around and talk with friends," co-founder Robbie Collins, junior, said. "Although some made ping pong competitive, the whole purpose was just to have fun. We also wanted to do something that allowed more people to get involved."

From the weekly Ping Pong Club members competing for fun in the Commons to the busloads of Speech Team members headed off to a weekend competition, students joined clubs not only to have fun with their friends but also to learn something at the same time.

Even though the orchestra members ended up with another Division II rating at ISSMA, the experience differed from any other time they had competed, according to Chetan. Their decision to take on an optimistic attitude and to have fun with friends made all the difference.

LEAN ON ME

After hitting the highlights along Boston's Freedom Trail, Jason Szanyi, senior, naps on senior Candice Grant's shoulder. "We spent so many hours together in journalism that we formed a level of comfort with each other," Candice said.

ACQUIRED TASTE

With her plate in hand, Peach Roman-Lagunas, junior, chooses a quesadilla. Peach experienced the Hispanic culture at home with two Chilean parents. "It was not often that my friends experienced what I did at home every day," Peach said.





THE STANDARDS



Paragon (front row) Farah Sherif, Candice Grant, Jennifer Lee, Payal Keshvani, Mrs. Nancy Hastings (second row) Jaime Shapiro, Mary Albertson, Branka Bastaic, Chris Carlos, Jason Szanyi (back row) Matt Lewis, Mirjana Lakich, Ted Creagh, Jon Pleitner, Dave Los, Jeff Furticella

Paragon

Officers:
Editor-in-chief
Jason Szanyi
Managing Editor
Candice Grant
Copy Editor
Jenni Lee
Design Editor
Farah Sherif

Sponsor:
Mrs. Nancy Hastings
Standard Deviation:
Earning the Hoosier
Star and a Crown



Ping Pong Club

Officers:
Founders
Robbie Collins
Connie Kuo

Sponsor:
Miss Valerie Pflum
Standard Deviation:
First-year club with
weekly games to
determine tourney
champions

Ping Pong Club (front row) Sarah Baker, Sonal Gupta, Mike Golembio, Ian Holloway, Shreyas Joshi, Ashraf Abu-aita, Chad Holajter, Arun Umaphay, Tim Platek, Jessica Solis (second row) Connie Kuo, Neel Shah, Katie Landowski, Aja Aktya, Stephanie Dybel, Amber Jernigan, Sarah Gregson, Carolyn Jania, Amit Shah, Janushi Dalal, Ashley Velchek, Neema Shah (third row) Anwar Ali, Ryan Miller, James Olasebikan, Gary Ghezzi, Joe Skertich, Jon Wendell, Justin Medrano, Nick Stone, Lauren Mikler, Kelly McWilliams, Steve Desanovic (fourth row) Terry Crouch, Jon Kutas, Arnab Dasgupta, Branka Bastaic, Mirjana Lakich, Alex Cheng, Simone Castaneda, Robbie Collins, Dijita Sundi (back row) Maxwell Ntiomosh, Russel Patel, Josh Levin, Gabe Culberg, Matt Guanzon, Nick Bokowy, Allen Hill, Philip Sajin, Brian Szymanski, Mike McCullough



Project X

Officers:
Planning committee
Candice Grant
Jennifer Lee
Farah Sherif
Julie Sufana

Sponsor:
Mrs. Linda Adams
Standard Deviation:
"Project X was really
different because the
whole motivation
behind the club was
to give back to the
community; it wasn't
selfish at all."

**Candice Grant,
sponsor**

Project X (front row) Josh Levin, Neel Shah, Waheed Nassimi, Shyam Patel, James Olasebikan, Shannon Zeros, Jon Noworyta, Amit Shah, Bhavik Nana (second row) Simone Castaneda, Fuja Kathrotiya, Jenn Zivich, Melissa Boeckman, Janet Pleitner, Chris Carlos, Jenny Nelson, Amber Jernigan, Justin Medrano, Jacqui Hayes (third row) John Dumakowski, Mary Albertson, Alex Cheng, Todd Dell'Aquila, Kara Clark, Billy Evans, Julia Konopasek, Maddie Morley, Stephanie Volkoff, Russel Patel (back row) Mike Shideler, Adam Kaufman, Natalie Clippert, Branka Bastaic, Amanda Reuter, Natalie Paez, Valerie Myszak, Kathy Pycinska, Mirjana Lakich, Sangeeta Bookseller, Mike Stoffregen, Amanda Manoski



Project X (front row) Payal Keshvani, Kelly Markovich, Beth Herrin, Sarah Baker, Sonal Gupta, Dijita Sundi, Nidhi Kansal, Stephanie Smith, Gina Selent, Neema Shah (second row) Alex Morley, Katherine Ntiomosh, Erin Mc Guan, Holly Granwald, Stephanie Dybel, Sara Gregson, Nikki Bland, Renee Schmitt, Sambodhi Das, Kristie Drudge (third row) Lauren Cherrier, Rachel Medina, Valerie Umlauf, Nicole Parra, Paige Wagner, Lindsey Steele, Suman Rao, Genevieve Grdina, Carolyn Jania, Connie Kuo (back row) Jennifer Lee, Lenny Weiss, Ashley Velchek, Megan Higgins, Darshak Joshi, Chirag Barai, Kara Kozlowski, Lauren Mikler, Jaime Shapiro, Candice Grant

BAG OF TRICKS

Disgusted with the unusual contents of her gift, Jennifer Lee, senior, examines the slimy stick of butter inside. "The present was creative, although sticky," Jennifer said. "Exchanging Christmas gifts added an entertaining touch to journalism."

FACE TO FACE

During a Project X trip to the Hartsfield Village nursing home, Sonal Gupta, junior, hands a patient a cookie for Valentine's Day. "I liked Project X because you actually dealt with people one-on-one and saw what it was really like," Sonal said.



from tests to tournaments,
clubs offer students
opportunities to beat the best
and stand tall after...

SIZING UP THEIR RIVALS

Watching her competitors deliver their pieces at the speech state tournament, freshman Danielle Wilks' feelings of anxiety melted away. After seeing such polished performances, she concentrated instead on what she could learn from the wealth of veteran speech members in her round.

"I didn't expect to go to State, let alone do well there," Danielle said. "My piece wasn't as good as it could have been."

Participating in scripted duo, prose, drama and poetry, Danielle chose to join the Speech and Debate Team when her sister Jessie Wilks, senior, urged her to do so. Along with her partner Dave Pavkovich, freshman, Danielle won her first and second speech meets.

"Getting first was encouraging because we wanted to compete even more after that," Danielle said.

Roger Shieh, senior, shared the same view in regards to Academic Team competitions. After constructing buildings and bridges after school and on Saturdays, Roger enjoyed attending competitions to show off his creations.

"If you put the work and effort into it, good things came," Roger said. "All that hard work really paid off when you got to get a medal in front of everybody."

One of the three divisions of Academic Team, Science Olympiad competed in a total of 23 different events at State. The judges compiled all the scores from each event into a single score and awarded the team with sixth place.

Although Nick Bularzik, senior, hoped to make it to State for Marching Band as well, the band missed its chance by placing second at Regionals. However, simply receiving the opportunity to compete at the regional level satisfied the band members, according to Nick.

"We never used to compete at that level," Nick said. "It was really important for the school to allow us to compete, so we were proud to go to all. We weren't upset about not advancing to State."

While some students thrived on competition, others looked at what they could gain for the school and themselves.

As Danielle's round ended, she looked back on her first year of speech, knowing she had learned enough to compete successfully at higher levels in the future.

CHECKING OFF

At the Homecoming pep rally, senior Holly Grunewald sifts through the list of participants for the potato sack race while freshmen Julie Nelson and Hana Keil observe a competition taking place. "There was rivalry between classes that were close to each other," Holly said. "My class didn't have rivalry with freshmen, but we did with juniors."



THE STANDARDS

Project X



Project X (front row) Farah Sherif, Cara Witecki, Erica Bhavsar, Tosca Salvacion (back row) Kavita Nana, Allison Cray, Christine Johnson, Julie Sufana, Mrs. Linda Adams

Quill and Scroll

Officers:

President
Keith Dell'Aquila
Vice President
Candice Grant
Membership
Chairperson
Jennifer Lee

Sponsor:

Mrs. Nancy Hastings
Standard Deviation:
Earning National
Honor Society
recognition, students
share the status of
excellence in
publication skills.



Quill and Scroll (front row) Candice Grant, Farah Sherif (back row) Jennifer Lee, Keith Dell'Aquila, Jason Szanyi



POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Attaching white pomps to the senior class float, Erin Kolb, senior, attempts to follow the tradition of beating the underclassmen in the spirit competition. "We wanted to make our float better than all of our previous ones," Erin said. "This was the first year we had enough time to actually make our float move."

UPPER HAND

During a practice for Lincoln-Douglas debate, Adam Wesolowski, senior, explains his position to the team while Coach Don Fortner, business teacher, mediates the discussion. "The competition aspect of debate made it better than speech in some respects because you had control over your fate," Adam said.



SADD (front row) Julie Sufana, Shannon Zenos, Payal Keshvani, Gina Selent, Sonal Gupta, Stephanie Volkoff, Ashley Velchek (second row) Katie Landowski, Lauren Mikler, Jon Noworyta, Jacqui Hayes, Coleen Adley, Natalia Paez, Lauren Hamblin, Aubrey Burdeau (third row) Amber Jernigan, Jaime Shapiro, Carolyn Jania, Holly Grunewald, Sangeeta Bookseller, Joe Rogan, Stephanie Dybel, Sara Gregson (back row) Nidhi Kansal, Melissa Diekelmann, Melissa Boeckman, Josh Levin, Mike Stoffregen, Russel Patel, Jillian Hmurovic, Peach Roman-Lagunas

SADD

Officers:

President
Melissa Diekelmann
Vice President
Gina Selent
Secretary
Lauren Hamblin
Treasurer
Janushi Dalal

Sponsor:

Mrs. Darlene Acosta

Standard Deviation:

"We were actually trying to make a difference that could save somebody's life."
Lauren Hamblin, junior

POSTING UP

As a Speech and Debate Council member, Raechelle Medellin, junior, posts the standings for a preliminary round at the Munster speech meet. Although she didn't compete first semester due to schoolwork, Raechelle still helped the team out. "I liked Speech and Debate because it gave you a rush to get up there and perform in front of a judge, knowing that you were up against people just as talented as you," Raechelle said.

EYE ON THE PRIZE

While following along with the sheet music, Chris Mihalo, sophomore, practices his saxophone for ISSMA Districts at Merrillville High School. Participating in band included attending several competitions throughout the year, requiring the students to put in extra hours of practice after school.

Spanish Club

Officers:

President
Emily Montgomery
Vice President
Raechelle Medellin
Treasurer
Richelle Medellin
Secretary
Russell Patel
Sponsor:

Mrs. Jennifer Luksich
Standard Deviation:
Spanish Club took field trips to restaurants and raised money for the IU Honors program



Spanish Club (front row) John Tomazin, Nicole Parra, Elizabeth Volkoff, Emilee Vandersluis, Mary Albertson, Nicole Castor, Farris Pearson, Suman Rao, Colin Tomazin **(second row)** Aaron Pleitner, Thomas Simmons, Jennifer Cluck, Billy Evans, Ryan Pestinski, Julia Kozmowski, Chris Maloney, Chris Ondo **(third row)** Suzanne Quansy, Michelle McIntyre, Lauren Hamblin, Christina Guzik, Puja Kathrotiya, Chris Carlos, Janushi Dalal, Leah Shaffer, Sarah Stockle **(fourth row)** Stephanie Volkoff, Jillian Hmurovic, Stephanie Dybel, Ryan Miller, Marty Hernandez, Lindsay Smarok, Kathy Pycinska, Natalia Paez, Tim Mazak, Jaime Shapiro **(back row)** Craig Talbot, Russel Patel, Mike Yatsko, Amy Heaney, Matt Guanzon, Robbie Collins, John Dumakowski, Alex Cheng, Patrick Hansen



Spanish Club (front row) Connie Kuo, Sonal Gupta, Sheiphal Gandhi, Rachel Gill, Renee Schmitt, Tosca Salvacon, Sara Harvey, Amanda Pogach **(second row)** Alissa Rosario, Dijita Sundi, Sambodhi Das, Erica Bhavsar, Ashley Gajda, Payal Keshvani, Richelle Medellin, Shivani Sharma **(third row)** Kavita Nana, Elena Alcala, Michelle Becka, Todd Loden, Julie Sutana, Emily Montgomery, Amy Hoffman, Sheri Spolnik, Cara Witecki **(fourth row)** Lindsey Steele, Jacqui Hayes, Sara Pappas, Brandi Bishop, Bhavik Nana, Troy Velasquez, Jim Knesek, Jon Nowoyta, Dana Sarber **(back row)** Molly Hanson, Jeff Gask, Shannon Zenos, Emily Zenos, Emily Ytti, Colin Kern, Megan Higgins, Raechelle Medellin, Katie Landowski, Lindsay Mambourg, Andrew Bissonnette

Speech and Debate

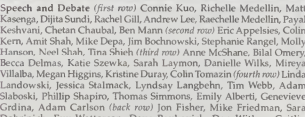
Officers:

President
Tim Webb
Vice President
Adam Wesolowski
Corresponding Sec.
Deepam Rusia
Recording Sec.
Chris Carlos
Treasurer
David Ellis

Sponsor:

Mrs. Helen Engstrom
Standard Deviation:
"About 10 percent of the school participated on Speech and Debate in any given year. Last year we were listed as one of the top 10 forensics programs in the country. We had three State champions last year."

Mr. Marc Lehnere



Speech and Debate (first row) Connie Kuo, Richelle Medellin, Matt Kasenga, Dijita Sundi, Rachel Gill, Andrew Lee, Raechelle Medellin, Payal Keshvani, Chetan Chaubal, Ben Mann **(second row)** Eric Appelsies, Colin Kern, Amit Shah, Mike Depa, Jim Bochnowski, Stephanie Rangel, Molly Hanson, Noel Shah, Tina Shieh **(third row)** Anne McShane, Bilal Omery, Becca Delmas, Katie Szwedka, Sarah Laymon, Danielle Wilks, Mireya Villalba, Megan Higgins, Kristine Duray, Colin Tomazin **(fourth row)** Linda Landowski, Jessica Stalmack, Lyndsay Langbein, Tim Webb, Adam Slaboski, Phillip Shapiro, Thomas Simmons, Elise Alberti, Genevieve Grdina, Adam Carlson **(back row)** Jon Fisher, Mike Friedman, Sara Dobrinich, Ery Watterson, Dave Parkovich, Dan Witkus, Caitlin Hawryszkow, Gadeir Abbas, Paul Cowgill



Speech and Debate (front row) Erica Ranade, Allison Crary, Ashley Troumoullaris, Shivani Sharma, Irena Hnatukso, Dana Sarber, Cara Witecki, Farah Sheriff, Amanda Stump, Elise Miller **(second row)** Neema Shah, Kyrille Murzyn, Suman Rao, Ching Baral, Elise Eldert, Justin Dal Corobbo, Darius Bamboat, Shreyas Joshi, David Johnson, Murad Omery, **(third row)** Michelle Becka, John Tomazin, David Ellis, Puja Kathrotiya, Manini Gupta, Julie Nelson, Katie Gavin, Lenny Weiss, Jennifer Lee, Denny Lee **(fourth row)** Sheiphal Gandhi, Chris Carlos, Beth Zygolowicz, Stephanie Coulin, Sara Gregson, Sangeeta Bookseller, Ibrahim Najamuddin, Adam Wesolowski, Carolyn Jania, Dylan Wood **(back row)** Amanda Pogach, Melissa Leslie, David Porter, Billy Lewis, Deepam Rusia, Andrew Bridgman, Amy Heaney, Jon Kutas, Joey Manderino, Jaime Shapiro, Jason Maldonado

THE STANDARDS

ALL THAT JAZZ

Tooting out the notes to Duke Ellington's song "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," Darcie Kozlowski, sophomore, plays the trumpet at her Jazz Combo gig at Borders. The group practiced every Wednesday for an hour and a half. "I wasn't that good at improvisation because I had just started," Darcie said. "It was hard to play with something on my own that vaguely went along with the music."

STEP BY STEP

All in a row, juniors Jenn Zivich, Diana Cox, Gina Selent, Janet Pleitner, Kelly Markovich and Jenny Nelson clutch their flags in a right arm movement during Colorguard practice. "We kept doing the same exercises over until we got it sharp and together," Kelly said. "I felt a sense of accomplishment when our coach told us we had improved."



PHOTO FINISH

Focused on finding the best picture, Publications photographer Dave Los, senior, holds up a strip of negatives. "Although the hours were long, it

proved to be a creative outlet," Dave said. "It was rewarding to see how the prints came out after the shooting sessions and long hours of rolling and developing film," Dave said.



devoting endless hours to sharpen their skills and vocal ranges, students find that...

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Watching the telephone poles pass, Ian Holloway, junior, shifted uncomfortably in the passenger seat of the car.

Ian endured a 45-minute trip to Joliet Junior College to meet a professor who would help him with his Science Olympiad event "Mission Impossible." He constructed a Rubik-Goldberg machine using intricate contraptions to move a ping pong ball 30 centimeters and launch the ball out of the device.

"There was a lot of troubleshooting involved," Ian said. "Anybody could say that they wanted to mix vinegar and baking soda, but actually accomplishing making the vinegar hit the baking soda was quite another story all together."

Building his device required Ian to put in countless hours to test the machine. Students used every minute to work out kinks in their creations; or for Evy Watterson, senior, in her duo.

After her Speech and Debate Council meeting, Evy stepped into a practice room to perfect all the details.

"I worked hard because I loved competing," Evy said. "If I didn't enjoy it, I wouldn't have had motivation."

As with Evy, passion motivated students to put in as much time as they could to perfect pieces, machines or even vocal talents. Dijita Sundi, sophomore, fulfilled her love of singing by participating in Women's Ensembles.

The girls prepared two pieces for the ISSMA competition called "Nigra Sum" and "Poor Man Lazarus." Aspiring to sing as a career, Dijita also practiced with Indian classical music at home.

"I really loved to sing, and I wanted to be a famous singer; so I enjoyed it," Dijita said. "I figured it would help keep my voice in shape because I would have to practice my music for the gigs."

Whether immersed in performing or construction, students devoted time to improve their talents. After investing a total of 50 hours into making his device, Ian finally finished his Mission Impossible device. All of his work paid off as the team snatched 10th place in the state.

CHIMING IN

Keeping with the rhythm, Katie Kooy, senior, plays the xylophone as Niki Cacich, freshman, strikes the oboe bells. Numerous football games gave the Marching Band a chance to practice their songs for the annual ISSMA competition.



PAINTER'S TOUCH

To prepare for the winter play *Ducks and Lovers*, Sarah Papin, senior, paints a doorframe on the set. "I had always really liked theater," Sarah said. "One day my friend asked me to help out with set building, and it was so much fun. I just kept going."



Student Government

Officers:

President
Farah Sheriff
Vice President
Waheed Nassimi
Secretary
Karen Lindemann

Sponsor:

Mr. Mike Wells

Standard Deviation:

"You had to be chosen to participate instead of just volunteering your time. People had to have faith in you to cast their vote for you."

Karen Lindemann,
senior



Student Government (front row) Mike Shinkan, Tina Shieh, Gina Christopher, Suman Rao, Farah Sheriff, Beth Rubino (second row) Lenny Weiss, Kelley Fernandez, Amy Hayes, Coleen Adley, Holly Grunewald, Paige Wagner, Steve Ziemba (third row) Jenniffer Lee, Emily E. Jones, Genevieve Grdina, James Olasebikan, Julie Nelson, Leah Shaffer, Karen Lindemann, Katie Thompson (back row) Waheed Nassimi, Mike Stoffregen, Josh Martin, Joey Manderino, Scotty Vandersteern, Gabe Culberg, Roger Shieh, Chad Holajter, Billy Lewis

Thespians

Officers:

President
Jodi Rosenthal
Vice President
Matt Domasca
Lenny Weiss

Sponsor:

Mr. Larry Brechner

Standard Deviation:

People couldn't just join; they had to earn their spots in the society.



Thespians (front row) Sarah Papin, Nikki Williamson, Colleen Summers, David Johnson, Jimmy Bochnowski, Nicole Rogers, Stacey Welsh, Michelle Miskimins, Allison Cray (second row) Megan Higgins, Christina Bernacchi, Rebecca Delmas, Justin DalCorrobbo, Julie Kiekenapp, Chris Sipes, Esther Economou, Joel Moosmiller, Elizabeth Bradley (third row) Lenny Weiss, Molly Hanson, Carolyn Jania, Jodi Rosenthal, Sara Dobrinich, Caitlin Hawryszkow, Rachel Kevin, Mike McCullough, Kristina Kesely (back row) Andrew Bridgman, Joey Manderino, Jordan Richardson, Jayne Holly, Lindsey Ellingsen, Ashley Troumouliaris, Julie Sufana, Stephanie Coulis, Craig Talbot, Dan Phillips

THE STANDARDS

scrounging for donations or scrambling for Krispy Kreme donuts, fundraisers leave clubs...

SEARCHING FOR THE GREEN

Soaked and shivering, Thomas Simmons, freshman, quickly jumped in a car and slammed the door shut behind him.

The Speech and Debate Team required its members to canvass the town and sell tickets for the annual Chicken Barbecue. Despite unexpected showers, the ticket sellers trudged on.

"It took real commitment to sell in the rain because there were people who led you on for five minutes and then said no," Thomas said. "You had to sell, though, so you wouldn't get in trouble."

The money raised at the annual Speech and Debate Barbecue before the Homecoming football game secured the majority of the funds that would pay for meet entry fees throughout the season.

National Honor Society members also brought in cookies, cupcakes and other baked goods for their annual bake sale as a way to cover the various costs of the induction ceremony.

Fundraising in the form of ad sales paid for around 25 percent or \$12,000 of the yearbook's expenses. Both *Crier* and *Paragon* depended on local businesses to help pay for their publications.

"Ad selling was annoying because you had to try to track down a manager who was never in their office. Even when

you got to them you had to wait while they decided whether or not to buy an ad," Payal Keshvani, junior, said.

On the other hand, Student Government and Project X collaborated to sell white ribbons during Homecoming for the Red Cross Liberty Fund.

For a local cause, Project X members sold "We Love Amy" stickers at lunch to help defray the cost of sophomore Amy Hayes' bone marrow transplant.

"When you [fundraised] for charity, you were doing something for someone else to make their life better," Kathy Ntiamoah, sophomore, said. "People were willing to give to a good cause."

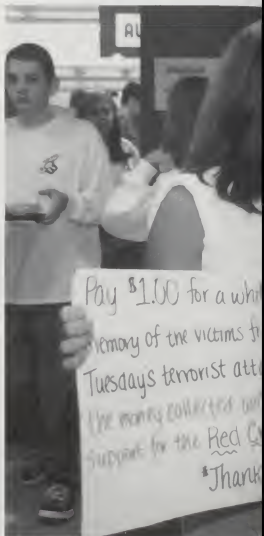
Whether soliciting funds for Sept. 11 or competition fees, clubs deemed fundraising key to their activities. With a frustrated sigh, Thomas opened the car door and marched through the rain towards his next prospective sale.

SOLEMN REMINDER

To commemorate victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, seniors and Student Government members Karen Lindemann and Katie Thompson sell remembrance ribbons to fundraise for the Red Cross.

MONKEY TROUBLE

Holding a "flying monkey," Jill Young, sophomore talks with fellow Student Government member Holly Grunewald, senior, as they look at the Homecoming dance decorations. Homecoming raised \$8,750 for the following year's festivities.





Video Club(front row) Jovica Balac, Justin Flick, Craig Talbot, Kevin McLean (second row) Rich Shudick, Joe Soeka, Nick Kikalos, Zach Lambert, Mark Hannigan, Ryan Anderson (back row) Adam Tepper, Mike Liszka, Joe Fray, Roger Shieh, Tedi Vlahu, Matt Mikkels, Adam Slaboski

Video Club

Officers:

President
Jovica Balac

Vice President
Joe Soeka

Sponsor:

Mr. Mark
Barrio

Standard

Deviation:

"We produced
some of the
funniest shows
every day."

Jovica Balac,
sophomore

\$ THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR

Whether baking batches of cookies for NHS points or going door-to-door to entice prospective barbecue-goers, students discover the importance of fundraising

TIED FOR CASH

"[Fundraising was] sending three kids [Senior David Los and juniors Jon Kutas and Randy Hoyle] to Nationals. It was paying for the hotel and airfare to Salt Lake City. It also had paid for State."

Randy Hoyle, junior

DIRECT DONATION

"I saw the tragedy the day before, and I felt so helpless like everyone else in the world. I felt that giving money would make me feel better. Because Sept. 11 was such a terrible thing and you felt so bad, you wanted to do something."

Kevin Wadycki, senior

BANDING TOGETHER

"Fundraising in general was a pain, but Market Day was good because kids didn't have to go door-to-door selling. Plus, Market Day was every month, and it was a constant flow of money."

Robbie Collins, junior



KEEPING DRY

After a rain shower drenched them, freshmen Chetan Chaubal and David Porter count out the money they earned as they sit in the dry car. "I liked this a lot better than selling boxes of candy for baseball," David said. "It was a lot more fun and easier. People actually looked forward to it."

lifting spirits

Perched on the hands of sophomore Kara Clark and juniors Aubrey Burdeau and co-captain Jess Kovach, junior and co-captain Angie Ritchie performs a "liberty" at a basketball game. "By losing our coach, we were hurt; but we did the best we could," Kovach said. "We taught ourselves and prepared for Nationals the best we could."

building ability

In a unified effort, all the squads perform mounts in front of the basketball crowd. At Nationals, the girls faced tough competition, according to Leslie Parker, junior. "In terms of cheer and dance we were equal, but other teams had more tumblers," Parker said. "A requirement for most squads was a standing back tuck. We had one girl in our school [Brittany Bohling, freshman] who could do it."



building blocks: terms for common mounts

cradle two bases pop the top into the air and then catch the top's back and legs while the spot scoops her under her arms

twist down the bases throw the top up (Becky Gribble, senior), who twists into a position parallel to the ground, and then catch her in a cradle

full two bases hold the top's feet in their hands and lift her until their arms fully extend over their heads as the spot steadies

arabesque same position as a liberty except that the top (Becky Gribble, senior) extends one leg out behind at a 90-degree angle

lib/liberty same position as full but the top bends one leg at the knee and has the inside of her foot touching standing leg

elevator same position as a full except that the bases only lift the top (Brittany Bohling, freshman) until their hands are at chest level



Varsity Cheerleaders (front row) Sara Dobrinich, Kristina Mueller, Kara Clark (second row) Coleen Adley, Leslie Parker, Angie Ritchie, Jess Kovach (back row) Aubrey Burdeau, Becky Gribble, Paige Wagner



JV Cheerleaders (front row) Christina Largus, Ryan Perliniski, Lindsey Steele (back row) Madilyn Moran, Nedra Stuart, Amy Hayes, AJ Skinner



Freshman Cheerleaders (front row) Angela Sowinski, Kelly Fray, Erin Joseph, Kristen Szafasz (back row) Aubrey Velasquez, Ashley Brown, Brittany Bohling, Jessie Stalmack



CLIMB to success

Following their triumph at Regionals, Cheerleaders finish 22nd out of 58 teams at Nationals in Orlando, FL, despite varsity coach's resignation.

mighty mustangs

"Quack, quack, quack, quack!" Arms wrapped around each other, the Cheerleaders chanted louder and louder before Regionals at the University of Michigan.

After introducing it their freshman year, the juniors continued their ritual of huddling up and reenacting a scene from *The Mighty Ducks* for good luck.

"We were just goofy girls," co-captain Angie Ritchie, junior, said. "It had worked for the Mighty Ducks, so we thought it might work for us."

more than meets the eye

Back arched with one foot firmly planted in the bases' hands and the other pulled over her head, co-captain Becky Gribble, senior, performed her newly perfected move, a "scorpion," for the crowd at the basketball game.

Though the girls executed the mounts with ease, it took Gribble a year to gain the flexibility to do a scorpion.

"People thought cheerleading wasn't a sport because they just saw us standing on the sidelines," co-captain Jess Kovach,

junior, said. "They didn't see the dedication, time and effort we put in."

Every new mount that the girls tried involved the risk of injury, but they had to ignore the pain, according to Gribble.

"To throw people in the air and catch them was incredibly dangerous," co-captain Paige Wagner, senior, said. "We got no recognition for it."

stepping up

Since JV chose not to join Varsity for competition, the varsity squad moved from the medium division to the small.

In spite of the change, Varsity won Regionals and a bid to Nationals. But before Nationals they dealt with the resignation of their coach, Mrs. Mary Clark.

"We didn't want to go [to Nationals] without [Mrs. Clark], but she wanted us to keep going," Wagner said. "Once we could go, there was no stopping us."

The team turned the loss into a chance for them to bond, according to Leslie Parker, junior. Despite several setbacks, the girls worked together to overcome the trials of the season.

solemn salute

Before the Homecoming game, the varsity Cheerleaders stand at attention while the Band plays the national anthem. "The loss of our coach brought us all together," Ritchie said. "It was rough, but we managed-we bonded more."

cry for victory

Arms in "high V," co-captains Paige Wagner, senior, and Jess Kovach, junior, and Kara Clark, sophomore, cheer in an effort to bring the crowds to their feet at a basketball game. "This was the best squad we'd had in four years," Wagner said.



in sync

During halftime at a boys' basketball game, the Dance Team performs their routine for the crowd. Before each performance the girls huddled together for motivation, according to Kathryn Wickland, junior. "We always told each other to smile, have energy and do their best," Wickland said.

shake, shake, shake

With a bright face, co-captain Amanda Spivey, senior, stands at the head of the Dance Team during a halftime performance. "On the dance floor, we meshed together really well," Spivey said.



chain reaction

Linked arm in arm, the Dance Team performs for the crowd at a football game. Many of the girls on the team felt much closer after the national competition. "We had a unified team, but we didn't really come together until the end," Kathryn Wickland, junior, said.

home turf

At the Homecoming game halftime show, Dance Team members Emily Hershberger, sophomore, co-captain Stephanie Zeck, senior, and Emily Stine, sophomore, reenact a scene from *The Wizard of Oz*. "I never expected that we would do so well," Zeck said.



beat it

Dressed in costume, Leah Shaffer, sophomore, and Amanda Manoski, senior, twist their bodies to the music. Throughout competition season, the girls maintained a perfect record. "I think we did so well because we had the dedication to prove ourselves," Manoski said.

STEPS toward fame

With new authority and their own steps, Dance Team maintains flawless record and captures personalized victory at Nationals.

pool party

Just before performing at Nationals, Coach Heidi May urged 17 nervous girls to give it their all. For extra motivation she joked that the entire Dance Team should jump into the hotel pool in full uniform should they capture first place.

Little did the girls realize that this joke would later turn to reality. As the speaker announced the team's standing as National Champion, the shocked group of girls exploded with excitement, according to Kathryn Wickland, junior.

"We were being crazy when we got back to the hotel," co-captain Amanda Spivey, senior, said. "We weren't naked, but we jumped in the pool with just our spankies, sports bras and tights on."

In past years Amanda Manoski, senior, believed the team had not received proper recognition. After bringing home a national title, however, she

expected others to develop a new layer of respect for the team.

dance fever

- 7 half-dressed girls in hotel pool after Nationals
- 0 losses throughout competition season
- 3 girls per bed at Radisson Hotel for team sleeperover
- 4.2 point win at Regionals

one of the girls

When chosen coach for the varsity Dance Team, Miss May held a completely undefeated record. The trend continued as the team won each competition.

Miss May's coaching

style differed from that of the previous coaches, according to co-captain Stephanie Zeck, senior. Although Miss May maintained authority, she also acted like a friend to the team members.

"She [Miss May] always let us know what she was feeling," Wickland said. "She really appreciated everybody else's opinions, too. She was just like one of the other members. You always heard her screaming for us at the competitions."

breaking routine

Most years the Dance Team hired a professional choreographer to design their competition routine. However, the choreographer did not have sufficient time to finish the entire dance anymore.

Instead of allowing the setback to limit their success, the girls filled in all the gaps with their own dance steps.

"Our choreographer just gave us the structure for our dance," Zeck said. "But it was more our dance than anybody else's. We had never made up so much of a routine before, but we were proud of what we ended up coming up with."

Their personalized routine worked better than any choreographer's would have because the girls knew the judges' preferences, according to Spivey.

With a high-energy fusion of technical skills and visual effects, the Dance Team convinced the judges to award it the highest score at Nationals.



Varsity Dance Team (front row) Leah Shaffer, Amanda Manoski, Megan Hershberger, Alyssa Hathaway, Kaitlin Rebescio, Marica Coduti (second row) Lauren Hamblin, Kathryn Wickland, Jillian Hmurovich, Ginger Anthony, Melissa Leslie (back row) Kristin Tanzillo, Christina Guanzon, Christy Gilbert, Jillian Balazs, Stephanie Zeck, Amanda Spivey



JV Dance Team (front row) Kathryn Slaboski, Morgan Geberin, Jennifer Zgorika (second row) Vasilia Kilibarda, Sarah Liszka, Renee Anderson, Laura Lautz (back row) Emily Stine, Lauren Davis, Maria Stopper, Kristina Standley, Lauren Jones

81-48 11-1 **BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY**

Season	Conference	Crown Point/ Lake Central	3rd	Lowell/ Calumet/	2nd	Sectionals	4th	Honors	All Conference Champion
		Gavit Invite	3rd	Gavit		Regionals	4th		Richie White
		Crown Point/ Gavit/Hanover	2nd	Lowell Invite	2nd				
		Central		Highland Invite	7th				
		TF South	7th	Kankakee	4th				
		Invite		Valley Invite					
		Bishop Noll/ Clark	1st	Clark Invite	2nd	Second Team Gadeir Abbas Murad Omery Brett Stewart			
				LAC	2nd				

fight OR flight

For the first time since 1996, the Boys' Cross Country Team runs straight to Semi-State, fulfilling one of its main goals with the encouragement of senior captains.

leading the way

As the team's only seniors, Gadeir Abbas and Richie White shared the roles of team captain and chief motivator.

"Our captains tried to get the team pumped up," Alex Cheng, junior, said. "They encouraged us to do our best."

Focus served as the most important element of running a race, according to Abbas. Before important meets he tried to help his teammates harness their energy to the task ahead.

"Before Conference and Regionals, I took everyone to an isolated spot and tried to get them going," Abbas said. "I would emphasize the importance of everyone contributing their fair share."

goal getters

Winning Conference and going to Semi-State served as the goals of the season, according to Coach Aaron Brown, Wilbur Wright Middle School teacher. The team didn't win Conference, but some agreed it marked one of the most successful meets of the year.

"I thought Conference was our best meet," Omery said. "Everyone had their peak race; we turned a lot of heads. We showed that we could be top dog."

Although the team qualified for Semi-State, some of the runners failed to meet personal goals.

"It was my goal to make Semi-State

individually, which I did," Yamtich said. "But I was disappointed with my performance. It was something I had to shake off and just hope I did better next time."

top dog

To prepare for Semi-State, the team ran at the New Prairie course the Wednesday before the meet. Although it hailed during their practice, the boys returned with confidence for Semi-State, according to Coach Brown.

"I would have liked to see [co-captain] Richie [White, senior] qualify for State," Coach Brown said. "I was hoping the team would have gotten in the top fifteen, too, but it depended on how hard everyone was willing to run."

A varsity member since his freshman year, White won Conference, placed second at Sectionals and Regionals and finished 100th at Semi-State.

"I had some pretty good races until Semi-State," Richie said. "I had never done so well at the sectional or regional meets before, but I thought I could have done a lot better at Semi-State had I been given another chance."

spirited support

With his arms high in the air, Jeff Newcomb, junior, acts as the team cheerleader at Semi-State. For each meet he sported red and white face paint to support his teammates. "We got each other fired up," co-captain Richie White, senior, said.





clenching success

With determination visible on his face, Donny Yamtich, sophomore, rounds a curve on the Munster course. Yamtich placed second at the meet, contributing to the team's victory. "I had more authority on the team in comparison to freshman year," Yamtich said. "I got a little older and a little better, but both were still good years."

helping hands

At the New Prairie course, co-captain Gadeir Abbas, senior, leads the other runners under the clasped hands of their fans. The team placed 19th at its first Semi-State appearance since 1996. "We had less natural talent this year than in others, but we had never worked so hard," co-captain Richie White, senior, said. "We probably had 10 guys who could have run varsity."

What was your personal motivation for running?

"When I was running and someone passed me, I took it personally. They were saying they were better than me, so I had to prove them wrong."

Gadeir Abbas, senior

"If you didn't do well when you ran, you had an entire week to think about it. It was all about pushing to do your best."

Alex Cheng, junior

"It helped knowing that [my girlfriend] Justy was there watching me. She always pushed me to do my best, sometimes even more than I did."

Donny Yamtich, sophomore

"We knew we had to run hard, or else it was all for nothing. As soon as the race started, you didn't notice anyone else."

Richie White, senior



down and out

After Semi-State co-captain Richie White, senior, reflects on his last race. White placed 100th, worse than he had hoped. "We knew we couldn't go to State unless we cut a minute off our times," White said.



Boys' Cross Country Team (front row) David Zagorski, Murad Omery, Yunwei Tai, Bernis Pavisian, Josh Raycroft, Jeff Newcomb, Ray Sienski (second row) Ryan Trojanski, Dustin Moriarty, Alex Cheng, Jeff Cook, Billy Lewis, Scotty Vandersteen (back row) Gadeir Abbas, Robbie Collins, Richie White, Coach Aaron Brown, Brett Stewart, Robbie Bielawski, Donny Yamtich

on your mark

Bracing themselves, the Boys' Cross Country Team awaits the shot of the starting gun at the first Munster meet since 1998 as co-captain Gadeir Abbas, senior, readies

himself to start his watch. Although schools provided timers for each meet, Abbas also timed the races he ran. "It was a habit," Abbas said. "I timed myself every time I ran, no matter what it was for."

striding TO success

Hindered by continual injuries, the Girls' Cross Country Team fights back to claim a first place finish at its home meet. To top off the season, Katy Stine, senior, qualifies for Semi-State for the third time.

times of need

With four of its seven varsity runners injured, the Girls' Cross Country Team looked to its underclassmen for relief.

Lindsey Steele, sophomore, and Ashley Devries, freshman, provided the team with consistent times throughout the entire season and really stepped up, according to Coach Darlene Shike.

The injuries also promoted a strong sense of unity for the team.

"[Injuries] brought the team closer," co-captain Katy Stine, senior, said. "We never knew when we would need the No. 8 girl. It was good for Ashley and Lindsey. They were suddenly our top scorers when we all got injured. It gave them confidence, and they did just as well when we came back."

bittersweet success

Though the girls found the season riddled with struggle, they still tasted victory at several meets.

"At the Clark Invite, we got second place even though Chesterton was there," co-captain Jeni Shike, senior, said. "We beat a lot of the teams we usually lost to, like Lake Central."

Although they won their home meet against Bishop Noll and Clark, the girls encountered disappointments at others.

"We were disappointed that we didn't

go [to Regionals] as a team," Nikki Williamson, junior, said. "It wasn't fun, just cold. The course was all uphill, and it was rainy and hard to turn."

At the Lake Athletic Conference meet, the girls lost to Highland for fifth place; but in Sectionals they beat Highland for third. Only Stine qualified for Semi-State.

"I had hoped we would repeat taking the team to Semi-State," Coach Shike said. "It really hurt us with the injuries. It was a tough fight every step of the season. We had to fight for every point."

finding focus

Whether goofing off or focusing on the race, each girl on the team developed her own way of preparing for meets.

Steele drew her motivation from an inspirational person in her life.

"If [my neighbor] survived 10 years of cancer and fought every day, then I could give [running] my all for a good 20 minutes," Steele said.

The girls exchanged gag gifts with secret pals on meet days. Before running they yelled team cheers like "How funky is your chicken," according to Shike.

"They always had an inside joke," Coach Shike said. "Everyone was always like, 'What did they say?'"

Inside jokes helped bring the girls together and motivated them to race.



27-24 5-1 GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

Season	Conference	27-24		5-1		Post-season	HONORS	
		Place	Team	Place	Team		Place	Team
		3rd	Crown Point/Lake Central	2nd	Lowell/Calumet		3rd	All Conference First Team
		3rd	Gavit Invite		Gavit		7th	Katy Stine
		3rd	Crown Point/Gavit/Hanover Central	9th	Highland/Kankakee			Second Team
		12th	TF South	4th	Valley Invite			Amanda Shike
			Invite	2nd	Clark Invite			Lindsey Steele
		1st	Bishop Noll/Clark	3rd	Lake Central			Ashley Devries
				5th	LAC			

breathless finale

After completing the New Prairie course at Semi-State, co-captain Katy Stine, senior, catches her breath while waiting in the chute. "It was the best possible way for me to end my season," Stine said. "I didn't expect anything more from myself, and I had a great race."

call to action

At the sound of the start gun, the girls spring to action at the Munster Triangular. "[The season] was really upsetting," Jeni Shike, senior, said. "I wasn't sure how to think about it. I wanted to savor the moments. At the end a lot of tears were shed."



Katy Stine, senior

For a third time, co-captain Katy Stine, senior, earned the right to run in Semi-State at New Prairie.

"It was the best race ever," Stine said. "It was exhilarating. It was the coolest course. I felt like I was on Global Guts. It was like an extreme adventure."

Despite hurting her back

during the season, Stine placed 53rd out of 154, her best finish ever. Stine also served as the team leader.

"Katy was the backbone of the team," Lindsey Steele, sophomore, said. "She kept the team together. I knew she was in pain a lot, so I just shut up and stuck it out."



Girls' Cross Country Team (front row) Ashley Devries, Maribeth Sarnecki, Jillian Vega, Jeni Shike, Katy Stine (back row) Julia Konopasek, Michelle Potter, Janina Zins, Amanda Shike, Nikki Williamson, Coach Darlene Shike

friendly feelings

Water bottle in hand, Lindsey Steele, sophomore, chats with co-captain Katy Stine, senior. Though a sophomore, Steele ran cross country for the first time. "I loved the sport," Steele said. "When I was running for practice, my mind was completely in the clouds. Things that seemed important were trivial matters when you were done. It was hard to explain; only other runners really understood."



strong finish

Finish line in sight, Amanda Shike, sophomore, pushes herself to first place at the Munster Triangular. After fracturing her growth plate the previous spring, Amanda Shike faced hip trouble, which forced her to drop out of the Highland meet.

getting a grip

During Senior Night against Gary Roosevelt, Nick Bokowy (90), senior, attempts to take down his opponent. Muddy field conditions forced the team to switch to a running game allowing him to complete more tackles than usual, according to Bokowy.

lying low

After missing a tackle, Lou Mazza (35), senior, tumbles to the ground. Injuries forced Mazza to sit out three games. "It wasn't fun to watch the game on the bench, but other players stepped up," Mazza said.

clash of arms

Using the "swim move," Nick Bokowy (90), senior, attempts to penetrate the offensive line. The defense held Lake Central to two touchdowns in the 17-14 victory.



Football Team (front row) Zach Lambert, Allen Hill, Brad Nykiel, Tom Lee, Lou Mazza, Doug Quasny, Jon Wendell, Chuck Mamich, Tony Doesburg (second row) Mike Kalina, Joe Skertich, Alex Pilawski, Nick Bokowy, Joe Jaksich, Nick Kikalos, Dave Dziubczynski, James Pavisian (third row) Jon Pleimer, Lee Murphy, Adam Del Rio, Mike Helfen, Steve Smith, Max Niamoah, Victor Zerngast, Steve Skalka, Jim Stump (fourth row) Tim Daugherty, Dave Watson, Jim Cuban, Mario Zerngast, Tony Calabrese, Brian Downing, Chris Herr, Jonathan Meacham, Steve Fandl, Jim Phelan (fifth row) Toshiro Toyama, Brad Banach, Josh Martin, Wally Cirafole, Josh Caddick, Jon Caddick, Scott Starewicz, Jason Grunewald, Brian Hayes (sixth row) Nick Cosme, Bryan Bokowy, Mike Lee, Ricky Brennan, Tony Spinosa, Pete Cirio, Mike Penman, Jeff Schmidt, John Perkins, Pat Kunka (back row) David Paliga, Bryan Adams, Coach John Doherty, Coach Bob Shrinken, Coach Scott McAlister, Coach Leroy Marsh, Coach Tom Largus, Coach Rob McCall, Coach Brian Clark, Patrick Los, Tony Nishimura



end of the line

Stumbling into the end zone, Victor Zerngast (24), junior, scores a touchdown against Lake Central. Emigrating from Argentina with his brother Mario in 1990, Zerngast would turn 20 next year as a senior and end his eligibility for high school football. "I would miss playing with my friends and especially Mario," Zerngast said.

7-1 JV

LaPorte
Morton
Lake Central
Andrean
Griffith
Highland
Lowell
Gary
Roosevelt

6-2 FRESHMAN

Gavit
Morton
Lake Central
Andrean
Griffith
Hammond
Highland
Lowell



falling INCHES short

After success in the regular season with a four-game winning streak and game-clinching plays, the Varsity Football Team meets defeat in a 'painful' overtime loss to Lowell in the Sectional Semifinal.

on a roll

After losing to Andrean and Griffith, the team began a five-game winning streak with a 45-7 win over Hammond

"After we lost those two games, we were down and didn't really want to go to practice," Nick Bokowy, senior, said. "We were just sick of losing, and we wanted to start having fun."

Ending the streak with a loss to Lowell, the team maintained an 8-3 record. Each successive win during the regular season fueled the team's momentum for the next few games, according to Lou Mazza, senior.

"When we had a winning streak, we knew how it felt to win," Mazza said. "We just wanted to keep that attitude going like we were supposed to win and that was what was expected from us."

win as one

By developing the motto "Strength of the Pack" at the beginning of the year, Coach Leroy Marsh, health education teacher, stressed the team's need to unite as one in order to win.

"Our 'wolf-pack' mentality was where all of us could do a little part to achieve great things," Coach Marsh said.

record receiver

After returning a kickoff during the Battle of the Bridge game against Highland, Mike Helfen (42) junior, dashes towards the end zone. Helfen broke the 28-year-old record for the longest kickoff return of 95 yards with his 97-yard run. "It was the greatest feeling to know I had done something that no one had done before," Helfen said. "To have had my name in the record books was such an incredible milestone in my life."

Emphasizing unity on the field, the team focused on the idea that one person could not win a football game, according to James Pavisian, senior.

"We knew if we were able to play as one, we could accomplish any goal that was placed in front of us," Pavisian said.

rites and rituals

Every Thursday night passed like clockwork for the players. They arrived at a senior's house to eat pasta and watch the Channel 56 "Prep Football Report" at 8 p.m. At one of the get-togethers, 54 boys swarmed Bokowy's house.

"It kept us united and related to our 'wolf-pack' motto of the year," Mike Kalina, junior, said. "It helped us focus on what we had to do the next day."

simon says

Rushing out into the middle of the field with one minute until kickoff, the team gathered around captain Tom Lee, senior. Continuing the "Do as I Do, Say as I Say" tradition, the team answered every command Lee yelled.

"We had done the same pre-game ritual for the past three years, and keeping a tradition was one of the most valuable things a team could do," Lee said. "It just gave the team a rhythm before the game and the mindset that winning was what mattered."

As Lee dropped to the ground, the rest of the players gathered in the center and began screaming to motivate themselves for the upcoming game.

(continued on 118)

8-3 3-2 VARSITY FOOTBALL							
Season	Conference	Gavit	35-7	Sectionals	20-10 20-21	All Conference	All State
		Morton	28-7			First Team	First Team
		Lake Central	17-14			Tony Calabrese	Tony Doesburg
		Andread	7-28			Tony Doesburg	Brad Nykiel
		Griffith	21-30			Mike Helfen	
	Post-season	Hammond	45-7	Allen Hill		All State	
		Highland	28-14	Tom Lee		First Junior Team	
		Lowell	14-10	Brad Nykiel		Chris Herr	
		Gary	28-0				
		Roosevelt					

Freshman Football Team (front row) Collin Hayes, Brent Banach, Brandon Platt, Adam Grunewald, Chris Solenti, Grant Burdeau, Prince Kwateng (second row) Zak Boswell, David Porter, Jon Fisher, Bojan Rajkovic, Aaron Pleinier, Rich Cigler, Mark Baleski, Joe Hunt, Tom Grantner, Trevor Clippert, Taylor Hopkins, Blake Hunter, Thomas Simmons (third row) Ryan Dillner, Teddy Horowitz, Brian Rubesha, Kevin Strbjak, Joe Dwards, Jordan Barnes (back row) Coach Matt Backs, David Pavkovich, Teo Ellis, Steve Ziemba, Joel Barnes, Nick Murphy, Coach Brian Vance



chain gang

While tackling their Hammond opponent during the Homecoming game, junior Tony Calabrese (61)

and seniors Nick Bokowy (90) and Dave Dziubczynski (68) collapse onto the ground. The team eventually defeated the Wildcats 45-7.



falling INCHES short

(continued from 113)

showdown

With bleachers filled with fans decked out in red and white, the team fought Highland in the Battle of the Bridge.

"One of the reasons Battle was so exciting was that it always drew the most people," Mazza said. "It was always fun to play in front of the huge crowds."

With a 20-point lead at halftime, the defense entered the second half and thwarted the rising Highland offense to eventually win the game 28-14.

just as good

Juniors and sophomores composed a large part of the varsity line-up and played a major role in the team's success, according to Tony Doesburg, senior.

"In all of my previous seasons, I'd never seen the sophomores and juniors step up the way they did," Doesburg said. "They played like seniors."

Jockeying for the chance to play, underclassmen constantly pushed the seniors to work harder.

"Our positions on varsity weren't guaranteed just because of the fact that we were seniors," Pavisian said.

Jumping at the opportunity to contribute, both Kalina and Wally Ciraferi, sophomore, functioned as the team's two principle quarterbacks.

leaders of the pack

Leading the team from experience, the seniors set the bar for the rest of the players, according to Ciraferi.

"They taught me what being a varsity football player was all about," Ciraferi said. "It was completely different from being on the freshman team, and they were able to show me the way."

Upperclassmen passed the traditions of the Varsity Football Team to the new members and encouraged them on and off the field, according to Lee.

"As a senior, I just wanted to motivate the players and to make sure they were going in the right direction in football as well as in life," Lee said.

painful lessons

After spraining his knee during the Andean game, Doesburg brooded over the possibility of having to sit out the rest of the season. However, he returned to score the only touchdown in the game.

"When I was able to come back to help the team out, it gave me a lot more of my confidence back," Doesburg said.

Injuries to the starting line also gave underclassmen the chance to show they also played to win, according to Mazza.

down and out

After blocking two punts for touchdowns, the team secured an early lead going into the half. However, when Lowell forced the Sectional Semifinal into overtime, emotions ran high.

"On the field you didn't have time to think," Bokowy said. "The adrenaline rush was so great because you just didn't know what was going to happen."

When Lowell successfully completed the two-point conversion to win, silence swept the Munster sideline.

"It seemed like forever before I heard the eruption in the Lowell stands," Doesburg said. "The roar from the sidelines was something I'd never forget. That was when it really started to hurt."

quick breather

Taking a short break, Tom Lee (51), senior, confers with teammate Dave Dziubczynski (68), senior, about the game. Lee won the Mike Niksic Leadership Award and the Captain's Award. "During the breaks I not only got a chance to rest but to also give my teammates advice on how we could improve as a team," Lee said.





waiting to exhale

Anxious for the upcoming decision, Coaches Tom Largus, Brian Vance, Brian Clark, Scott McAlister and head trainer John Doherty wait to see if Lake Central obtained a first down. The "bend but don't break" defense allowed the opponents to gain yards but not score a lot, according to Coach McAlister.

stepping up

His first year playing football, Doug Quasny (28), senior, intercepts a Hammond pass with Alex Pilawski (6), junior. Quasny won the Senior Pride Award. "My hard work finally paid off," Quasny said.



Mike Helfen, junior

Fast Facts

Position: wide receiver
Height: 5 feet 10 inches
Number: 42

Accolades

20 total receptions
2 interceptions
24 tackles

How did leukemia affect your life?

"I started to take things a lot more seriously. I had more drive and determination knowing that I was able to overcome the disease."

breakthrough

Fighting off the defense, Wally Cirafesi (11), sophomore, passes the ball during Senior Night. As a sophomore, Cirafesi played starting quarterback. "It was a privilege to be able to start at all, especially during Senior Night when I played alongside some of the guys that taught me so much," Cirafesi said.

links lingo

bogey one shot over par

birdie one shot under par

eagle two shots under par

mulligan taking a free second shot

gimme when ball lands inches from the hole, player can pick up

twist of fate

As she follows through on her stroke, Jennifer Lee, senior, tees off. Lee advanced individually to Regionals although she never expected to. "Whenever I played in a match, I thought about how my score affected the team," Lee said. "But [Regionals] was just for personal satisfaction."

roughing it

After hitting the ball out of the rough, Raechelle Medellin, junior, follows its path. Medellin placed concentration as a high priority when playing. "Something we all needed to learn was to focus only on the match and concentrate on what we needed to do," Medellin said. "We needed to 'get into the zone.' Since school started, we felt more and more pressure."



Girls' Golf Team (front row) Amanda Reuter, Jennifer Lee, Carissa Grant, Kelley Fernandez, Christy Johnson, Amanda Studniarz (back row) Emily Montgomery, Raechelle Medellin, Richelle Medellin, Coach Jim Davidson, Katie Paliga, Dana Sarber, Kelly Yurasovich

steering for support

While lounging in the golf cart, co-captain Emily Montgomery, senior, talks with Coach Jim Davidson, industrial technology teacher, about her game. "It was great for venting," Montgomery said.



breaking^{OFF}line

Although school interrupts the season's flow, satisfaction comes with breaking 500, placing fifth at Sectionals and qualifying Jennifer Lee, senior, for Regionals. Memorable bus rides add spark to the Girls' Golf Team's experience.

pumping up

In several different forms, motivation played a key role in keeping the girls relaxed and focused on the game.

"Golf was a strange sport," Coach Davidson, industrial technology teacher, said. "It wasn't like football where you could get pumped up before a game. The biggest motivation I used was reminding them to outdo their last score and solve problems before the next game."

Players did their best to keep each other motivated as well. When Lee noticed team morale seemed low close to Sectionals, she bought the team pouches to hang on their golf bags that contained pieces of paper with inspirational quotes and jewelry they wore at Sectionals, according to Kelley Fernandez, sophomore.

With constant support from the coach and teammates, the girls stuck it out through the season's ups and downs.

pleasant surprise

Despite believing the team had a good chance to break out of Sectionals, performance fell short of Coach Davidson's

course of action

Focused on the ball, Kelley Fernandez, sophomore, visualizes the path of her putt. As the only underclassman varsity player, Fernandez drew from experiences as a youth. "I started playing when I was little and learned to love it; the competition was fun," Fernandez said.

eyeballing it

Squatting low to the ground, co-captain Katie Paliga, senior, lines up her putt to account for the uneven green. While Paliga recognized the team's weak focus, she still enjoyed her team's company. "We loved to hang around, talk about school and guys and have fun just being girls," Paliga said.

expectations. However, he regained hope upon realizing that Lee would move on to represent the team at Regionals by receiving the third highest score among the schools that had not advanced.

"It was an honor to go, and I was really shocked," Lee said. "The thought never crossed my mind; but when the last score came in, it hit me."

At Regionals Lee scored better than the other girls in her threesome.

road trip

Members stayed close because of the fun times they experienced together, according to Richelle Medellin, junior. Co-captain Katie Paliga, senior, chose "Baby Cause I'm a Thug" as a team song.

"We were riding on the mini-bus one day when it came on," Paliga said. "I started singing, and everyone cracked up; so it became our song."

Co-captain Emily Montgomery, senior, entertained the team by dancing around on the bus on the way to meets.

"I was a joking person; I tried to keep everyone in a good mood, staying positive and revved up," Montgomery said.

The girls also sang the song "Hit 'Em Upstyle" on the bus to jokingly irritate Dana Sarber, sophomore, who hated the song. By dancing along to B96 and belting pop songs, the team made long rides to practices and meets bearable.

7-6 GIRLS' GOLF

Season	Valparaiso	16th	Valparaiso	1st	Sectionals
	Portage/	3rd	Wheeler	1st	
	Marquette		Merrillville	1st	Forest Park 5th
	Lake Central	4th	Andrean	1st	Regional Qualifier
	Invite		Lake Central	2nd	
	Kankakee	9th	Hanover	1st	Jennifer Lee
	Valley Invite		Central		
	Chesterton	1st	Lowell	2nd	
	Marquette	8th	LaPorte	5th	
	Invite		Invite		
	Crown Point/	3rd			
	Lake Central				

Post season

16-3 8-1 BOYS' SOCCER

Season	Conference	Bishop Noll	6-0	Highland	3-0
		Clark	3-0	Hammond	6-1
		Portage	4-2	Lowell	9-2
		Valparaiso	1-2	Lake Central	2-1
		Gavit	3-0	Morton	1-2
		Chesterton	2-1	Andean	3-0
		Griffith	1-0	Merrillville	2-1
		Crown Point	5-0		
		Hobart	2-0		

coach's corner

Keeping the team motivated, Coach Jim Prasopoulos, Westlake Education teacher, talks to senior Josh Lipton and juniors Justin Gulotta and Adam Stuebe. "The program definitely got more respect after Coach Prasopoulos arrived," co-captain Teruo Toyama, senior, said.

warming up

Before the Aug. 14 Bishop Noll game, Chris Wey, sophomore, prepares his leg in searing heat. "We used warm-ups to get focused on the game," Wey said.



by the numbers

- 10 shutout games
- 9 straight season wins
- 3.4 goals scored per game
- .70 goals allowed per game
- 8 conference wins
- 84.2 winning percentage for varsity team



Boys' Varsity Soccer Team (front row) Marc Strick, Adam Stuebe, Joe Rogan, Chris Wey, Justin Gulotta, Art Insurriaga, Dan Rucinski (second row) Asst. Coach Tim Sopko, Jason White, Garry Williamson, Teruo Toyama, Greg Pottorff, Josh Lipton, Josh Bradish, Coach Jim Prasopoulos (back row) Aaron Cheek, Nikola Djorovic, Tommy Clark, Bryan Cheek, Nemanja Djorovic



Boys' JV Soccer (front row) Paul Leitelt, Matt Kasenga, Scott Strandberg, Dan Grunewald, Adam Carlson, Greg Gier (second row) Coach Tim Sopko, Corey Greeny, Jim Knesek, TJ DeGiullo, Mike Lowe, Jay Lucas, Mike Shinkan (back row) Jon Funston, Mike Hawryszkow, Kevin Hoffman, Brent Fox, Bryce Hlista, Jared Flahaven, Jeff Furticella, Jeff Harris

Post-season	Sectionals		Art Insurriaga		Season	Bishop Noll		9-1	Lowell	5-0
	East Chicago	3-0	Teruo Toyama			Portage	0-1	Lake Central	0-3	
	Morton	4-0	Coach of the Year			Valparaiso	1-3	Andean	2-0	
	Bishop Noll	1-2				Gavit	7-0	Merrillville	3-0	
	All Conference		Jim Prasopoulos			Chesterton	1-0			
	Tommy Clark		Conference			Griffith	2-2			
	Joe Rogan					Crown Point	5-1			
						Hobart	2-2			
						Highland	4-0			

trapping THEIR chance

Posting 10 season shutouts, the Boys' Soccer Team leaves the field with less than one goal allowed per game and a Sectional spot. In the final round, however, the boys fall just short to previously defeated Bishop Noll 1-2.

start to finish

Senior Night against Lowell carried special meaning for the seniors and Coach Jim Prasopoulos, Westlake Education teacher. Coach Prasopoulos began coaching with the senior group.

"He was the turning point for the team," captain Teruo Toyama, senior, said. "They'd had different coaches, but the program definitely got more respect after Coach Prasopoulos arrived."

Coach Prasopoulos took the varsity team to the final round of Sectionals for the third consecutive year.

"It was pretty special," co-captain Joe Rogan, senior, said. "Teruo, Tommy [Clark, senior] and I got to know him really well playing on the varsity squad."

The seniors that had played under Coach Prasopoulos for their whole high school career marked the first group he had the privilege of coaching.

"They had a special place in my heart," Coach Prasopoulos said.

swept away

Rain fell in torrents at the Sectional Championship. Due to the adverse weather conditions, officials postponed the game twice before resuming. The

sweet revenge

In the second round of Sectionals against Morton, Justin Gulotta, junior, dribbles the ball out of the opponent's grasp. The team advanced to the Sectional Championship after defeating Morton 4-0. "They beat us in overtime in the regular season," Gulotta said. "It was a redemption game, and we were hungry for revenge."

up in the air

With another shutout on his mind, co-captain and goalie Tommy Clark, senior, dives to make another save. Clark won All Conference after he led the defense, posting 10 shutouts in 19 games.

game, scheduled for 2 p.m., didn't finish until 5:15 p.m., when the Boys' Soccer Team fell short to Bishop Noll, 1-2.

"It [the weather] affected the tempo of the game; it could've been a lot better," Toyama said. "It was ridiculous; we were the only Sectional that wasn't cancelled." Since Bishop Noll scheduled its Homecoming for that Saturday night, the game had to continue as planned.

prime location

Other players contributed to the Boys' Soccer Team's offense, which featured Paul Leitelt, freshman, who scored seven of the eight sectional goals.

"Paul really picked it up for Sectionals," Toyama said. "He was always in a good spot to score and had great placement for his shots."

The underclassmen did their share of work, but the seniors shared worries about next year's leadership.

"They [the seniors] gave off a positive influence and were always looking for feedback and ways to make the team better," Chris Wey, sophomore, said. "All the seniors came together as one force to lead the team. Everyone helped out."

shielded success

The team's success resulted from the strength of its defense, according to Toyama. The boys posted 10 shutouts in 19 games, including 2 consecutive shutouts in sectional competition.

"The four of us just came together and were able to feed off each other well," Greg Pottorff, junior, said.

"Give credit to the defense for our success," Toyama said. "It was the best defense I'd ever played with."

gripping ^{TRUE} reality

After losing one of three seniors on the team mid-season, coach and players devise motivational tactics to advance an inexperienced group to Regionals, where the Girls' Soccer Team suffers a 0-5 loss to Lake Central.

rough riders

Outnumbered by younger teammates, upperclassmen strove to use their knowledge and experience to develop their young team. The season started out rough. They had lost eight out of their starting fourteen games, according to co-captain Lauren Eidam, senior.

"The underclassmen might have hurt us in the beginning," Eidam said. "Our team was really young, and it took us a while to come together."

As the season progressed, the girls came to work together as a team instead of individuals with separate talents.

ingenious incentives

Stealing the game ball and tossing it into the middle of the pre-game huddle, Coach Donna Sopko, school nurse, created many motivational activities. As they lunged to touch the ball for good luck, the girls tumbled over each other and landed in a mass pile-up. When they finally had all settled down, Coach Sopko started her cheer.

"Coach Sopko screamed 'Whose ball is this?' and we answered back 'Red Dawgs' Ball!'" Eidam said.

Players also stepped up to motivate the Girls' Soccer Team members.

"Mary Leitelt [junior] became our head pep-up leader," Eidam said. "She always made up games to help focus our attention on the game ahead."

on the rebound

At the Lake Central game, co-captain Lindsey Serna, senior, turned and heard a pop in her knee. She had torn her ACL and couldn't play until March.

"It was depressing and difficult because I couldn't play with people I had played with for four years," Serna said. "In a way I felt I let the team down."

With only three seniors, Serna's injury required an inexperienced player to fill her position. However, the team sprang back quickly from the event, according to Peach Roman-Lagunas, junior.

"The underclassmen jumped in for her offensively, but she was still greatly missed," Roman-Lagunas said.

sectional slam

An early slump didn't deter the team from moving on to Sectionals.

"We weren't gelled together at the start, but we got to know each other's playing styles throughout the season," Kersten Kelly, sophomore, said.

After capturing the sectional title, the girls felt more united as a team.

walk to remember

With game ball in hand and memories of the finished season in mind, Angie Meyers, senior, sulks off the field as her teammate Ali Nykiel, sophomore, tries to console her after their 5-0 regional loss to Lake Central. "I wanted to touch the ball forever and remain a part of the game," Meyers said. "I couldn't let go of the ball just as I couldn't let go of my last season."



7-9 3-3 GIRLS' SOCCER

Season	Conference	Morton	11-0	Valparaiso	1-6
		SB St. Joe	0-4	Lowell	5-0
		EC Central	11-1	Merrillville	2-4
		Portage	0-4	Hobart	6-0
		Andean	0-6	Bishop Noll	3-0
		Chesterton	0-6	Highland	1-2
		Kankakee	8-1	Crown Point	2-1
Post-season		Valley		Griffith	0-3
		Lake Central	0-3		

Sectionals	2-1	5-0	Honors
Regionals	0-5		

JV	All Conference	SB St. Joe	0-0	Lowell	5-0
		Portage	3-2	Merrillville	1-1
		Andean	2-4	Hobart	1-1
		Gavit	0-1	Bishop Noll	0-1
		Chesterton	0-1	Highland	0-2
	All District	Kankakee	5-0	Crown Point	1-2
		Valley		Griffith	3-0
		Lake Central	0-6		
		Valparaiso	0-1		



splitting competition

Surrounded by defenders, Amanda Achter, sophomore, kicks the ball to the center for a goal on the team's 6-0 Hobart win. In anticipation of hard situations, the team rehearsed strategies by acting out possible scenarios. "I didn't panic knowing there was someone behind me supporting me," Achter said.



by the numbers

- 4 injuries before the halfway point in the season
- 9 different pep-up activities to motivate the players
- 7 mandatory team meals after practices
- 1 red card received throughout the season



Girls' Varsity Soccer Team (front row) Kersten Kelly, Megan Remec, Amanda Diombala, Angie Meyers, Amanda Achter, Ali Nykiel (second row) Lauren Eidam, Peach Roman-Lagunas, Susan Valand, Hana Keil, Mary Leitelt, Hali Tsolakos, Lindsey Serna (back row) Katie Howarth, Lydia Carle, Melissa Jurich, Coach John Fekete, Coach Donna Sopko, Manager Rachel Anderson, Lisa Murray, Taryn Lotak



Girls' JV Soccer Team (front row) Chrissy Domenico, Ashley Carlson, Stephanie Coulis, Sarah Bradish, Lauren Guidotti, Sara Schulte, Emily Lawrence (second row) Lauren Banas, Erin McGuan, Kathy Ntamoah, Courtney Mambourg, Katie Daniels, Stephanie Scully, Anne McShane, Lauren Cherrier (back row) Morgan Wagner, Coach John Fekete, Lindsay Puterko, Manager Rachel Anderson, Emily Yttri, Coach Donna Sopko, Lauren Harrington

high rewards

Ready for a high-five, Amanda Achter, sophomore, rewards Hana Keil (24), sophomore, for a good hustle. "You couldn't have someone thinking she couldn't do it because then she wouldn't," Achter said. "[High-fives] made you realize your team card."

follow the leader

To avoid a steal by the Hobart defender, co-captain Lauren Eidam, senior, keeps the ball in close. "I was always just trying to score one for the team," Eidam said. "Soccer was much more a team sport than an individual game."

18-2 11-0 BOYS' TENNIS

Season Conference	Hobart	5-0	LaPorte Invite/	5-0	Sectionals	5-0	First Team	First Team All State Jeff French
	Valparaiso	5-0	LaPorte		Regionals		All District	
	Lowell	5-0	LaPorte Invite/	3-2	Clark	5-0	Gabe Culberg	
	SB Clay Invite	2nd	Plymouth		Lowell	4-1	Jeff French	
	Lake Central	4-1	LAC Calumet	5-0	Semi-State		Dan Kohnen	
	Calumet	5-0	LAC Highland	5-0	Fairfield	5-0	Mike Lee	
	Andrian	5-0	LAC Lowell	4-1	SB St. Joe	3-2	Tim Platek	
	Griffith	5-0	Merrillville	5-0	State		Adam Rothschild	
					Center Grove	1-4	Mike Shideler	
					West Lafayette	2-3		
			Post-season		Honors			



Boys' Tennis Team (front row) Coach Dave Knish, Chris Carlos, Ben Oprinovich, Dan Kohnen, Tim Platek, Gabe Culberg, Adam Rothschild, Jeff French, Mike Lee, Mike Shideler, Scott Gray, Chad Holajter, Shreyas Joshi, Asst. Coach Mary Lou Platek Daniels (second row) Chad Samara, Jon Kutas, Deepam Rusia, Roger Shieh, Adam Wesolowski, Matt Guanzon, Tedi Vlahu, Tim Webb, Bilal Omery, Nick Stone, Steve Garcia (third row) Tom Dwars, Kyle Rice, Ted Creagh, Joey Manderino, Chris Maloney, Dan Cohen, Greg Curran, Matt Jillson, Rich Shudick, Jim Bochnowski, Paul Cowgill (fourth row) Mac Rawden, Aaron Smith, Chetan Chaubal, Eric Appelsies, Joey Platek, Andrew Bridgman, Chirag Barai, Arun Umapathy, Darius Bamboat, Andrew Lee, Gary Ghezzi (back row) Pat Thomas, Chris Ondo, Jason Gott, John Hansen, Andrew Kitchell, David Chen, Jia Hou, Philip Chan, Neel Shah



by the numbers

- 24 feet of Subway sandwich consumed at Semi-State and State
- 1,671 styrofoam cups spelling players' names placed in fence by mothers
- 34 people on the fan bus to Indianapolis

high hopes

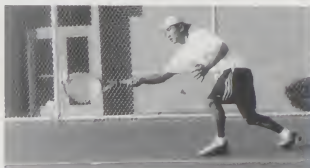
After clapping faster and faster in a circle, juniors Gabe Culberg, Mike Lee, sophomore Mike Shideler, senior and captain Jeff French and senior Dan Kohnen grasp hands in the middle and yell, "You gotta believe—Munster!" Kohnen viewed tennis as a team sport. "I knew everyone else was dependent on me," Kohnen said. "You could have been the best player in the state; but if your team didn't have the ability, you wouldn't get anywhere."



shaking off nerves

Before playing Lowell's Rodney Cusik at Regionals, Adam Rothschild, junior, shakes hands as Mike Lee, junior,

waits in line. "The season could have come down to my match, so it was a little nerve-racking," Rothschild said. Rothschild won 7-6 (3), 6-1.



quick reach

Arm outstretched to make contact with the ball, Mike Lee, junior, executes a forehand groundstroke. At 5 feet 6 inches and 130 lbs., Lee found ways to take advantage of his size. "It would have been better if I was a little taller," Lee said. "But since I didn't weigh that much, I could move around more quickly."

strike BACK AT state

Entering Semi-State, only one point separates the Boys' Tennis Team from reversing its early loss to South Bend St. Joseph. With the right motivation, victory rewards the boys with a ticket to State for the fourth consecutive year.

follow the leader

From the season's outset, Jeff French, senior, took his title of captain to heart. He took the team to West Beach to run up and down the sand dunes in 90-degree weather. Afterward, the boys played football and cooled off in the lake.

Aside from organizing conditioning retreats, French grew serious when the time came. Before Semi-State and State, he read an original motivational speech.

"[French] was one of the best captains ever," Mike Shideler, sophomore, said. "We looked up to him as a great role model and the best player in the area."

switch to success

After a 2-3 loss to South Bend St. Joseph at an invite, Semi-State gave the team a chance to clinch one more match against South Bend and advance to State.

When the team score stood 2-2, the boys waited for No. 2 doubles team Dan Kohnen, senior, and Tim Piatek, junior, to bring in the final victory.

"We had beaten South Bend's No. 2 doubles before and just wanted to destroy the kids," Kohnen said. "We realized we were capable and bound to win."

power stroke

Grimacing in concentration, captain Jeff French, senior, reacts to a shot with a forceful backhand. French worked on perfecting groundstrokes since they composed the basics of the game.

The pair defeated their opponents 6-1, 6-7 (3), 6-3 and guaranteed the team a fourth appearance at State.

less than their best

Having traveled to State three times, the boys aimed to finally capture the title. Ranked first in the state, Center Grove prevented the 11th-ranked team from hitting its target. Everyone but French lost their matches to Center Grove.

Though the boys hadn't anticipated problems from West Lafayette, they played worse than expected in the second round, landing fourth place overall.

"I thought a lot of it had to do with the crazy weather; it was tough to keep our focus," Knish said. "But I couldn't complain about the season; the lowlights were pretty limited at State."

Despite the disappointment, Coach Knish knew the team could have played better on any other day.

flicker of hope

While his teammates struggled against Center Grove at State, French ended up crushing his opponent.

"The whole crowd was chanting my name as I was playing," French said. "That was the best match of my life."

After falling short of the original team goal, French said his success provided a welcome consolation prize.

hitting Ξ off

Boasting 12 torches and their own chant, the Girls' Volleyball Team 'sticks together' on and off the court to win 11 conference games and a shot at the sectional title.

survival pack

One by one, the Girls' Volleyball Team went around talking about the tiki torch each girl clutched in her hand. The 12 torches mimicked ideas taken from the TV show *Survivor*. Designed with emblems from competing teams, each torch represented a different conference game.

"We had the tiki torches painted in the opponents' colors," Stephanie Smith, senior, said. "The torches reminded us about what we needed to do for success."

The torches not only provided motivation for the team, but they also helped establish the girls' ties.

mystery motives

Out of the girls' experiences together came something called "CSB," which they cheered every game after "The Star-Spangled Banner." Some knew it to mean "Cocky Spandex Babes," but it carried a different meaning only the girls knew.

"I couldn't really say what 'CSB' stood for because it was kind of a secret," Julie Bassetto, sophomore, said.

Despite the fact that only the girls knew the true meaning of what they screamed, they continued to run in a circle, pound on the floor and yell "CSB!" before matches. Each year the girls chose a new chant to pump themselves up.

charging the ranks

Despite their status as the underdogs, the team defeated Gavit, one of the best teams in the area. The win made it one of the most memorable games of the season, according to Jess Wilson, senior.

"The day of our Gavit game stood out most in my mind," Chrissy DiCostanzo, senior, said. "We wore army fatigues to school, and we all stuck together. Once we arrived at the gym, we went crazy, honking our horns and yelling."

net gains

Winning Conference 11-1 highlighted the team's season as they achieved one of their biggest goals of the year.

"By the end of the season, we were even closer than we were at the beginning," DiCostanzo said. "We had survived all the hard work together and had gotten to know each other better."

After four years of not competing in Conference, Coach Naveed Nizam agreed that the title stood out as one of the biggest accomplishments of the year.

within reach

On her way down from spiking the ball in the middle of practice, Jillian Martin, senior, concentrates on perfecting her technique. "We usually just worked on technique instead of trying to hit as hard as we could," Martin said.



20-11 11-1 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Season	Valparaiso	6-15, 16-14, 15-12	Hammond	15-4, 15-6	Lake Central	10-15, 17-15, 6-15
	Lowell	15-10, 11-15, 15-10	Lafayette	3-1	Crown Point	15-9, 9-15, 2-15
	Chesterton	12-15, 15-11, 5-15	Lake Station	15-8, 15-12	Gavit	15-6, 15-9
	Morton	15-8, 15-12	Griffith	15-8, 15-5		
	Hobart	15-0, 15-9	Whiting	15-8, 15-8		
	Clark	15-2, 15-2	Calumet	14-6, 15-3, 15-12		
	Bishop Noll	15-5, 15-2	Highland	15-4, 15-13		
	Gavit	15-7, 15-11	Merrillville Invite			
	Munster Invite		Merrillville	12-15, 1-15		
	JCA	4-15, 12-15	Penn	12-15, 2-15		
Conference	N. Newton	15-8, 15-5	Highland	14-16, 15-3, 15-12		
	South Bend	15-7, 15-9				
	Plymouth	15-10, 15-10	Andean	15-9, 17-15, 6-15		

19-7 11-1 JV

Post-season	Sectionals		Valparaiso	9-15, 6-15
	Gary West	15-11, 15-1	Lowell	15-13, 15-6
	Lake Central	15-4, 16-14	Chesterton	15-3, 8-15, 15-11
			Morton	15-10, 15-10
	All Conference		Andean Tourney	7-15, 16-14, 6-15
	First Team		Bishop Noll	15-2, 15-8
	Jess Wilson		Lowell	15-7, 15-3
	Lauren Ziemba		Marquette	15-1, 15-7
	Second Team		Hobart	15-6, 15-10
	Chrissy DiCostanzo		Clark	15-2, 15-2
Season	Katie Thompson		Bishop Noll	15-13, 9-15, 15-10



dig deep

Ready for the ball, Lauren Ziemba, senior, crouches down. "Making First Team All Conference was nice because it meant I actually accomplished something," Ziemba said.

beyond words

Focused on the newspaper clippings, the players find out that the paper labeled them as the "dark-horses" for Sectionals. "What the paper said was not important," Jess Wilson, senior, said. "What we did on the court spoke for itself."

sign language

In order to get the varsity team spirited, sophomores Jenny Gluek and Nancy Bielfeldt decorated the bleachers with posters. "When you walked in, it just showed somebody cared and wanted you to play your heart out," Gluek said.

high five

Gearing up for the conference game, Stephanie Smith, senior, runs through the junior varsity's maze of support to the Rocky theme song.



Varsity Volleyball Team (*front row*) Angie Speziale, Katie Thompson, Sarah Pfeifer, Stephanie Smith, Jillian Martin, Lauren Ziemba (*back row*) Coach Naveed Nizam, Assistant Coach Mary Rodovich, Julie Bassetto, Jess Wilson, Chrissy DiCostanzo, Talia Matury-Vacaro, Coach Don Fortner, Manager Alana Salata



Freshman Volleyball Team (*front row*) Ashley Dudzik, Bianca Del Rio, Allison Chelgren, Nicole Enright, Rachel Myszak, Lindsey Pugh, Kelly Shaw, Coach Janet Worries, Stephenie Brajak, Natalie Samano



JV Volleyball Team (*front row*) Jenny Gluek, Suzanne Quasny, Emily E. Jones, Nancy Bielfeldt, Diana Huerta, Jill Hanrahan (*back row*) Katie Laudermilk, Nikki Gauthier, Lindsay Smaron, Coach Don Fortner, Melissa Obszanski, Addison Del Rio

What made your team different?

"We were such a close team that we knew how each other played on the court. We trusted one another, and we knew everyone would get their job done."

Stephanie Smith, senior

"We worked great together. I thought that people wouldn't want to hang out as a team for a weekend, but we actually wanted to spend time with each other."

Julie Bassetto, sophomore

16-8 1-0 FRESHMAN

Guest	15-0, 15-3	Lake Central 14-16, 15-1, 15-3	Lake Central 9-15, 6-15	Lake Central Tourney	Lowell
Michigan City Invite		Crown Point 5-11, 11-15	Andreae 15-13, 15-6	LaPorte 15-13, 15-6	15-9, 15-8, 15-6
Lake Central 14-16, 15-1, 15-3		Conference Tourney	Merrillville 15-3, 8-15, 15-11	Kankakee 15-3, 8-15, 15-11	11-15, 12-15
Marquette 5-15, 11-15	Morton 15-4, 13-15, 15-5		Calumet 15-10, 15-10	Valley 15-10, 15-10	10-15, 9-15
Peori 15-2, 15-4	Calumet 15-11, 11-15, 13-15		Hammond 7-15, 16-14, 6-15	Andreae 15-10, 15-10	Bradley 11-15, 15-11, 11-15
			Clark 15-2, 15-8		
Hammond 15-2, 15-4			Bishop Noll 15-7, 15-3	Crown Point 7-15, 16-14, 6-15	
Lake Station 15-13, 15-7			Highland 15-1, 15-7	Hobart 15-2, 15-8	
Griffith 15-15, 15-9			Valparaiso 15-4, 15-10	Guest 15-1, 15-3	
Whiting 15-5, 9-15, 15-9			Morton 15-1, 15-7	Valparaiso Tourney	
Calumet 15-11, 15-7			Portage 15-3, 9-15, 15-10	Valparaiso 12-13, 15-9, 3-15	
Highland 8-15, 15-9, 15-9				Merrillville 15-1, 15-7	
Andreae 18-15, 13-15, 15-9				Crown Point 15-7, 15-7	

on the lookout

Ready to make his move, Adam Del Rio, junior, seeks an open shot around a Calumet defender. "I was strong at posting up because I was usually stronger than most of the forwards," Del Rio said. "I'd work on posting up with our centers to make it even harder on me."

14-8 6-2 BOYS' BASKETBALL

Season	Conference	Highland	48-50	Lowell	67-45	LAC Tournament		Honors	All Conference	
		Merrillville	56-65	Bishop Noll	48-56	Hammond	83-60		Dustin Bothwell	
		Andean	76-58	Calumet	59-57	Calumet	70-63		Jon Jamich	
		Hammond	79-66	Gavit	56-32	Bishop Noll	44-51		Jim Phelan	
		Chesterton	80-69	Hammond	53-67	Sectionals				
		Lake Central	58-46	Griffith	58-48	Gary West	53-67		Honorable Mention	
		Portage	73-45	Crown Point	51-53	Side			George Colakovic	
		Highland Tourney		Hobart	79-41				Josh Martin	
		Crown Point	63-58	Morton	69-51					
		Highland	42-46							



Boys' Varsity Basketball (front row) George Colakovic, Josh Martin, John Jamich, Adam Del Rio, Alex Pilawski, Brian Stier (back row) Coach Jim Prasopoulos, Coach John Terry, Nate Burchfield, Coach Mike Hackett, Jim Phelan, Aaron Gross, Trainer John Doherty



reach for it

On the tip of his fingers, John Jamich, junior, grabs for the ball in order to regain possession. Jamich lived at the 3-point line shooting 46 percent, according to Jamich. "I felt I could shoot from there with consistency. I worked on my shooting for 6 to 10 hours a week," Jamich said.

just within reach

As he goes for a layup, Nate Burchfield, junior, pushes a Gavit defender out of the way for 2 points in the 56-32 win. "Gavit wasn't a great game for me," Burchfield said. "I didn't play well. When I didn't play well, I just tried to forget about how I had been playing before and concentrated to make it better."



RISE above odds

With only nine players, Boys' Varsity Basketball overcomes small numbers with tightly knit, 'balanced' team to clinch Conference Co-championship with Griffith.

shaving off spirit

Huddling into the boys' locker room after the team dinner at Aurelio's, the varsity team pulled out the clippers the Monday night before their sectional game. Seniors George Colakovic and Brian Stier shaved the boys' heads to help motivate the team.

"It got everyone pumped," Nate Burchfield, junior, said. "We didn't want to look like morons who just shaved their heads for only one day."

Shrugging off the "pretty boy" remarks from their teammates, Josh Martin, sophomore, and Adam Del Rio, junior, refused to shave their heads.

"For some reason I just couldn't do it," Del Rio said. "I didn't have the guts.

I respected them; it was good that they were so excited for the game that they went ahead and shaved their heads."

number crunch

171 points the boys outscored their 16 opponents during their 22-game season
13 years since the Mustangs won their last LAC Championship
72 school record-breaking field goal percentage
6 consecutive wins

speaking up

Strengthened by their previous varsity experiences, the boys never had a problem getting along and working together. Cooperation and sharing the status as the school's superstar drove the boys' season.

"We had a balanced team," Coach Mike Hackett, health teacher, said. "We didn't have a superstar, but nine players that took turns being our leaders."

Consisting of only nine players, the Boys' Varsity Team lacked the ability to make many substitutions.

"Many of us had to learn new positions," Dustin Bothwell, sophomore, said. "We didn't let a team hurt us just because we had nine players."

Up to that point no one arose as a vocal leader. To help inspire the boys and keep them going, Colakovic and Stier emerged as leaders on the court.

"A perfect leader knew what he was talking about," Josh Martin, sophomore, said. "If we were having a bad game, George and Brian got us pumped."

(continued on 129)

minute men

Resting for a few seconds, seniors Brian Stier and Kurt Keil and juniors Jim Phelan, Alex Pilawski and Adam Del Rio watch as the rest of the team finishes the game. Coach Mike Hackett, health education teacher, and Coach John Terry, math teacher, glue their eyes to the court.

loud and clear

Angry about a missed play, Coach Mike Hackett, health education teacher, yells at George Colakovic, senior. Colakovic developed as a leader to help the team. "Colakovic became more vocal after a disappointing loss to Hammond, which was what we were lacking up to that point," Coach Hackett said.



down at heels

Hands raised in surrender, John Jamich, junior, falls back while Bishop Noll's Melvin Brown, sophomore, shoots for a three-pointer. "Guarding a quick guy like Brown, one that could jump real high, was tough," Jamich said.

off the ball

Arm shooting out for the ball, George Colakovic, senior, attempts a steal while Jim Phelan, junior, and Adam Del Rio, junior, concentrate on defense. Colakovic expressed disappointment over the team's performance that day. "We were much better than Highland, so we should have beaten them," Colakovic said. "We pretty much blew it; we didn't play up to our potential."



10-10 JV

Highland	50-40
Merrillville	27-55
Andean	58-50
Hammond	51-28
Chesterton	56-43
Crown Point	41-45
Lake Central	20-49
Portage	33-58
Lowell	37-33
Bishop Noll	54-61

10-9 FRESHMEN

Calumet	44-36
Gavit	45-26
Hammond	51-33
Griffith	40-38
Crown Point	30-43
Hobart	41-37
Highland	47-29
Lowell	59-43
Morton	42-35
Merrillville	30-36
Valparaiso	35-40
Lowell	32-18
Morton	46-22
Portage	46-43
Clark	42-18
Crown Point	35-46
Hobart	32-54
East Chicago	25-38
Bishop Noll	46-21
Lake Central	21-36
Griffith	42-39
Hammond	42-40
Lake Station	45-29
Highland Tourney	
Crown Point	19-35
Highland	32-35
Andean	42-45

three's a crowd

Surrounded by three Calumet players, Dustin Bothwell, sophomore, aims for the hoop. Bothwell cited offense as one of his strengths. "The best part of my game was taking it to the hoop," Bothwell said. "It was one of the most frequent things I did."



above odds

(continued from 127)

player's party

Gathered at junior Jim Phelan's house the night before a game, the boys watched video tapes of their next opponent to rev themselves up.

"This brought the team closer because we were already friends," Phelan said. "We would just have fun and get ready to play the next team."

Much like a close-knit family, the boys enjoyed a sort of "sibling rivalry." After the Hobart game, the juniors complained about the amount of food that Phelan ate during lunch. Colakovic, sensing that he could out-eat Phelan, challenged him to a contest. After winning the challenge, Colakovic had only one request.

"Phelan had to say 'Uncle Georgeie won!' before I would let him stop eating," Colakovic said.

fantastic feat

After 13 years the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team watched the Conference Co-championship with Griffith. A close game, the team finally pulled away in the fourth quarter with a block by Jim Phelan in the last three seconds that sent the game spiraling into overtime.

shout out

Eyes searching for an open teammate, George Colakovic, senior, prepares to hurl the ball toward John Jamich, junior. Colakovic led the team in assists with 79 total throughout the season. "I wasn't a really good shooter, so I always looked to pass to Jamich," Colakovic said.

ready and waiting

Body braced in defense, Josh Martin, sophomore, watches his Bishop Noll opponent for the next move in order to steal as Alex Pilawski, junior, backs him up. Although a sophomore, Martin said he never felt like an outcast. "At first I was a little timid, but later on I got more aggressive," Martin said. "The more I practiced with them, the more I got used to them."

"We had never before won any championships up to that point in Coach Hackett's two-year coaching career," Burchfield said. "That block was a turning point in the game. We knew we'd win in overtime; Griffith had already blown their chance."

Along with the win came a first seed in the following Lake Athletic Conference Tournament. Although losing to Bishop Noll, seeded second in the tournament, 44-51, the title of Conference Co-champs allowed the team to show that they also deserved respect as a good team, according to Burchfield.

"We knew we played well, but to get respect we had to show teams around the area," Burchfield said. "I don't think they respected us; they thought we were rich kids who couldn't play basketball."

close clash

Now holding a title, the team eyed a sectional victory. Pitted against Gary West Side in their first game, the team faced a battle ahead of them with West Side's three Division I players.

"The final score was not indicative of how close of a game it was," Coach Hackett said. "We were only down by three in the third quarter. However, their athleticism took over in the fourth quarter and pulled away."

The team, although dissatisfied, still viewed the game as an accomplishment, according to Del Rio.

"Of course when we lost we were disappointed; but we played well for the majority of the game, so we had to be proud," Del Rio said.

Though a sectional title eluded them, the team prided themselves for recapturing the conference title after 13 years.



Boys' JV Basketball (front row) Mike Morley, Russ Petersen, Mike Tiberi, Matt Jillson, Matt Baker, Bart Banach, Jason Grunewald (back row) Dave Paliga, Warren Santner, Coach John Terry, Clark Wick, George Behrens



Boys' Freshman Basketball (front row) Dan Grunewald, Marcus Hammonds, Steve Harker, Brandon Platt, Brent Banach, Chris Selent, Matt DeRolf (back row) Eric Wallace, Kevin Strubjak, Adam Hruskocy, Assistant Coach Jim Rukas

SEIZE middle ground

Despite several upsets, key victories against Highland and at the Kankakee Valley tournament uplift the Girls' Basketball Team spirit.

spellbound

With wand in hand and glasses in place, Jillian Martin, senior, jokingly cast spells from the movie *Harry Potter* on her teammates in order to do well at the game against Highland.

"We always had fun in the locker room before [Coach Beth] Vesa [math teacher] got there," Martin said. "That night *Harry Potter* was coming out; I was excited. My mom bought the glasses and wand from the dollar store. We were fooling around to get pumped up."

The girls brought a few memorable moments from the locker room out of the season, such as playing dodge ball or drawing energy from sugar highs.

"We ate a lot of sugar," Lindsey Puterko, junior, said. "I normally had candy to get us hyper. Also, Courtney Mambourg [junior] wrote quotes on our chalkboard in the locker room."

Messing around in the locker room served as a stress releaser for the team. From dodgeball to *Harry Potter*, the girls invented creative ways to fire up.

sweet success

Amid a season of many unexpected or close losses, two games emerged as key victories for the record. Highland, one of the first games of the season, and the Kankakee Valley tournament stood out as memorable moments.

Highland proved one of the girls' biggest rivals, having lost to them for

years, according to Puterko. The girls didn't even hope to come close to victory after "getting killed" the year before. Although the team only scraped by with a single point, the narrow win still helped boost their mentality.

"The game was important for confidence and realizing we could compete with anyone," Coach Vesa said.

The Highland game showed that everybody on the team could contribute, rather than just a few of the seniors. Junior Jenn Hostetter, sophomore Melissa Obszanski, Puterko and Mambourg formed the group of key players who stepped up during the game and brought the effort, according to Coach Vesa.

"Once you were in the game, you couldn't stop doing well," Obszanski said. "You had this energy that always kept you going."

(continued on 133)

up in arms

Before the game varsity players huddle together for a high-five and motivational chant. "We said a word but tried not to repeat the same one twice," Erin Kolb, senior, said. "We thought it would be fun. [Motivation] became a challenge."

What did you enjoy most about playing basketball?

"I'd played basketball my whole life. I liked having something to do every day, and I liked having a good time with girls who loved to play," Chrissy DiCostanzo, senior

"I liked team sports a lot. Once I started I loved it and didn't want to stop playing. I liked the competitiveness." Kaitlin DeCero, sophomore

"I made a lot of new friends through playing basketball. It was a good opportunity to get out there and have school spirit." Jill Sinchak, junior



Girls' Varsity Basketball Team (front row) Erin Kolb, Manager Alana Salata, Kaitlin DeCero, Jenn Hostetter, Amy Parker, Courtney Mambourg, Manager Patty Pfister, Lindsey Puterko (back row) Coach Tim Sopko, Chrissy DiCostanzo, Jillian Martin, Coach Juliann Acevez, Coach Beth Vesa, Jill Sinchak, Melissa Obszanski, Coach Michael Coil





floor fight

Fighting for possession of the ball, Kaitlin DeCero, sophomore, struggles to clutch hold of it on the floor. DeCero believed that the team needed to work on executing offense. "If teams went out and threw hard man-to-man defense, we had a hard time getting into the offense set," DeCero said.



hands on

Trying to control the ball's path, Chrissy DiCostanzo, senior, runs down the court with Lake Central opponents chasing her. DiCostanzo recognized that playing together strengthened the team. "I felt that when we all decided to play together and got everyone involved, we were successful," DiCostanzo said.



9-14 4-4 GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Season

Conference

Kankakee	41-44
Valley	
Chesterton	48-60
Highland	46-45
Crown Point	49-61
Lowell	45-27
Lake Central	34-56
Andrean	44-46
Gary West	47-52
Side	
Gavit	59-48
Merrillville	69-51
Portage	54-56

Kankakee	
Valley	
Tournament	
Lafayette	53-51
Central	
Kankakee	45-27
Valley	
Griffith	29-33
Valparaiso	28-55
Bishop Noll	37-38
Morton	56-30
Highland	31-40

LAC Tournament	
Hammond	63-42
Calumet	44-39
Highland	28-46
Andrean	40-54

Post Season/Honors

Sectionals	
Lake Central	40-51
All Conference	
Jillian Martin	

crash course

In an effort to maneuver around her Valparaiso opponent, Amy Parker, junior, bumps into her. Parker recognized that not many fans supported the team at games. "With [the fans'] support, it probably would have made us work harder," Parker said.

sideline support

Along the bench, Coach Beth Vesa, math teacher, talks to Jenn Hostetter, junior, as Erin Kolb, senior, Assistant Coach Juliann Acevez, social studies teacher, and JV coach Michael Coil, science teacher, watch the game. Coach Vesa played a large role since she decided not to pick team captains. "We rotated between varsity players," Vesa said. "People who were leaders emerged as one. We didn't need a label."



Girls' JV Basketball Team (front row) Jill Hanrahan, Megan Remec, Amanda Diombala, Amanda Achter, Becca Delmas, Sarah Stockle (back row) Nicole Enright, Alissa Rosario, Manager Patty Pfister, Stephanie Andjelich, Samantha Korda, Coach Michael Coil, Elizabeth Puterko, Justine Bauer



Girls' Freshman Basketball Team (front row) Hana Keil, Elise Miller, Bianca Del Rio, Gordana Radmilovic, Brogan Guthrie, Lori Andjelich, Erica Stout (back row) Stephanie Brajak, Ali Nykiel, Coach Tim Sopko, Natalie Samano, Kelly Shaw, Heather Haneman, Emily Diekelmann, Gina Christopher, Rachel Myszak

free style

With proper stance Jillian Martin, senior, prepares to shoot a free-throw. Martin shot a 73 percent from the free-throw line. "It could've been better, but I was satisfied with it," Martin said.



passing chance

With the ball coming straight towards her, Erin Kolb, senior, attempts to receive a pass. Kolb viewed basketball as a challenging sport. "Every day we had to practice for two or three hours," Kolb said. "It was one of the most demanding sports in high school because the season was so long."

2-2 12-8 JV

Conference	Season	JV	
		Record	Tournament
		Kankakee 32-33	KV Tournament 34-22
		Valley (KV)	Lafayette 34-22
		Chesterton 28-17	Central
		Highland 14-42	KV 31-24
		Crown Point 49-61	Lowell Tournament
		Lowell 42-27	Hanover 37-21
		Lake Central 37-40	Central
		Andrean 23-39	Wheeler 37-27
		Gary West 34-38	Griffith 35-31
		Side	Valparaiso 32-55
		Gavit 54-23	Bishop Noll 26-24
		Merrillville 30-18	Morton 22-23
		Portage 37-31	Highland 20-24



A Season		Highland	30-23
Highland	23-9	Gavit	26-16
Hobart	31-25	Griffith	34-25
Lake Central	24-26	Valparaiso	20-36
Andrean	24-26	Lake Central	19-25
Calumet	33-28		
B Season			
Lowell	33-11	Lake Central	26-24
Merrillville	30-23	Crown Point	30-14
Crown Point	22-27	Portage	32-28
Morton	41-15	Valparaiso	14-48
Calumet	37-44	Lake Central	27-28
Portage	27-32		
Bishop Noll	22-15		

SEIZE middle ground

(continued from 130)

good times

The Kankakee Valley tournament over winter vacation also demonstrated the girls' talent after rising as champions against Lafayette Central Catholic and Kankakee Valley. More than just seniors had contributed to the win, according to Hostetter. The girls brought home another memory to add to their glory.

"We almost backed into a ditch on the way to Kankakee Valley," Amy Parker, junior, said. "We got lost, and our bus driver started to turn around. We kept telling him to stop, but our back tire was in the ditch and we took out a mailbox."

seasonal slump

The Highland game and Kankakee holiday tournament proved the girls' capabilities; but they also lost several games throughout the season, some with very close scores. The girls never went through any extreme losing or winning streaks, according to Coach Vesa.

"We definitely improved a lot," Kaitlin DeCero, sophomore, said. "We started playing as a team before Christmas break. We had a lapse after that because a few were sick and it was tough getting back into things. But after that we were okay again."

Others such as Parker thought their lapse never ended. This might have

lift off

With arms opened wide, Melissa Obszanski, sophomore, jumps up to make the rebound. As only a sophomore on varsity, she gained motivation by playing with seniors. "They made me want to work harder and gave me something to work towards," Obszanski said.

contributed to some of the teams' losses in the second half of the season.

"We went into a slump around Christmas and never really got out of it," Parker said. "We didn't try as hard and kind of started to give up. The length of the season was long; and after being in it for so long, it got tiring."

change of pace

A new conference tournament replaced the old method of determining the Conference Champion based on each team's record throughout the season. Chrissy DiCostanzo, senior, recognized an advantage of the tournament.

"If you lost to a team, you had a chance of beating them again later on in the season," DiCostanzo said.

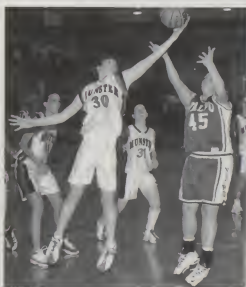
After the Lake Athletic Conference split into two sections, "black" and "blue," area teams played some cross-over games outside of the regular season, according to Coach Vesa.

"It gave you that tournament experience before Sectionals; [however], there were too many games the week before Sectionals," Coach Vesa said. "But it had no effect on our performance."

The girls' record seated them seventh in the tournament. They won two of four games, placing fourth out of thirteen.

shake it up

At the Valparaiso game, Kaitlin DeCero, sophomore, shakes hands with her opponent. As an underclassman on Varsity, DeCero enjoyed her position. "Last year I was treated a lot differently," Kaitlin said. "This year I earned my position. Everyone tried to make me feel confident."



head above water

Cleared to swim just one day before, co-captain Steve Chovanec, senior, pushes for a win in the 100 fly at Sectionals. Chovanec jumped back to take first in both the 50 free and 100 fly and swim two championship legs in the 200 medley and 200 free relays to qualify for State.



face value

As one of 25 underclassmen, Steve Millies, freshman, swims the breaststroke. Millies helped grab the 400 free relay win at Conference.



Boys' Swimming Team (front row) Daniel Albrecht-Mallinger, Steve Millies, Mike Mashura, Jeff Gaik, Steve Balog, Colin Tomazin, Spelios Bacoyanis, Theodore Liu (second row) Mike Yatsko, Josh Raycroft, Tony Gallagher, Drew Hauflaire, Greg Curran, Andrew Moffitt, Mike Mc Carthy, John Herr, Erickson Ferraz, Tom Burek, Diving Coach Chuck Chelich (third row) Alex Jacobs, Matt Lewis, Brandon Thompson, Matt Banach, Dustin Moriarty, John Tomazin, Keith DeMars, Coach Mike Blaze, Assistant Coach Larry Hautzinger (back row) Justin Smith, Matt Mikels, Mark Susoreny, Steve Chovanec, Brad Farnsley, Chetan Chaubal, Kevin Hoffman, Sean Pizzuto



armed and dangerous

With the leading time in the 500 free, Josh Raycroft, sophomore, catches a quick breath during the race at Conference. With their 100-point win over Highland, the team effectively springboarded to bigger events, according to Raycroft. "I just wanted to drop a lot of time and do well at State," Raycroft said. "I came close but just missed it."

10-3 BOYS' SWIMMING

Red/white	92-94	Highland	4th	Sectionals	1st	State Qualifiers
Penn	97-89	Invite		State	30th	Steve Chovanec
Lowell	114-72	South Bend	81-104			Brad Farnsley
Munster	2nd	Riley		All Conference		Jeff Gaik
Relays		Griffith	116-70	Steve Chovanec		Drew Hauflaire
Valparaiso	100-5-	Crown Point	97-91	Brad Farnsley		Matt Lewis
	85.5	Merrillville	109-76	Jeff Gaik		Steve Millies
Portage	117-69	Calumet	153-18	Matt Lewis		Brandon Thompson
Hamilton SE	3rd	Chesterton	82-104	Drew Hauflaire		
Invite		LaPorte	114-72	Steve Millies		Conference Coach
JV Lake	89-91	Highland	108-75	Matt Mikels		of the Year
Central		JV LAC	1st	Brandon Thompson		Mike Blaze
Lake Central	83-103	LAC	1st			

Season

Post-season/Honors

off center

With only three season losses, senior Steve Chovanec's bout with mono and 'tapering' team commitments fuse to knock the Seahorses outside state's Top 20 for first time in school history.

doctor's orders

As days ticked away before Sectionals, Steve Chovanec's nerves wore thin. Struck with mono two weeks before the meet, his chance to make a final state appearance began to dwindle.

Chovanec's illness cost him weeks of practice and training before Sectionals. Out of the water until doctors cleared him to swim, he anticipated the results of an ultrasound to tell whether his spleen had enlarged—a test that, if positive, killed his chances to compete.

"I honestly didn't think that I was going to make it back in time," Chovanec said. "It all depended on what the tests and ultrasounds said. I was just lucky the training kept me in the shape I was to fight it off."

pool points

- 2 lucky seahorses carried to meets
- 5 hours of practice a day during winter vacation
- 10 dollars spent per person on post-season hairstyles
- .014 seconds over Highland to win the sectional 400 free
- 17 consecutive sectional titles

Given the thumbs up just one day before prelims, Chovanec stepped into place just seven-tenths off the twenty-year school record in the 50 fly.

power play

From a win-lose standpoint, the Chesterton meet marked the boys' final season loss. For the team, though, the event showed the first time the group meshed as a single unit.

While previous meets lacked team unity, the Chesterton match brought a complete team effort to the table, according to Jeff Gaik, freshman.

"We really did swim as hard as we could," Gaik said. "We gave it everything we had. Even though we lost, we took away one of our strongest efforts and learned how we needed to work."

shock value

Finishing 30th at Indianapolis, the team came face to face with its lowest state ranking in the school's history.

When the team's fourth-ranked medley relay tumbled to tenth, the group knew they faced real problems, according to Matt Lewis, junior.

"We were upset and astounded most of all," Brandon Thompson, junior, said. "Towards the middle of the season we went fast, but the commitment just tapered off. We lost our A game because the effort just wasn't there."

After absorbing the shock of the event, the boys needed to take a step back and learn from the meet, according to Coach Mike Blaze, social studies teacher.

As the boys rode the bus home in silence, they reflected on their losses. Trying to pinpoint the cause of the performance, they looked back to see what they could have done differently to alter the season's outcome.



achilles' heel

With bandages gripping his heel and his fifth-place finish in the 50 free in mind, Mike Yatsko, sophomore, reflects about his injury at Sectionals. "I knew something was wrong," Yatsko said. "I didn't know that I cut my foot open on the wall."

winning spread

Arms fully extended, Brandon Thompson, junior, cuts through the water against Chesterton. Setting a meet record of 2:03.43 in the 200 IM at Hamilton Southeastern, Thompson saw Chesterton as the first time the team performed as a single unit.



BACK in business

Goals meet reality as Girls' Swimming Team captures first at Highland Invite and eighth at State, completing a 14-1 season.

success story

"There is no Saturday until you get past Friday." The words of Coach Robin Tobias, English teacher, wedged themselves into co-captain and senior Sam Watanapongse's mind as she psyched herself up before State preliminaries.

The team set and accomplished their goals of making Top 10 at State and taking first at the Highland Invite, according to Coach Tobias.

The team jumped from 33rd to 8th at State. The Top 10 victory forced Coach Tobias to shave his head as he had promised at the beginning of the season.

"I thought that of all four years of swimming this had been the best," Watanapongse said. "We came so far; I had never come this close to the Top 10, but this year it all fell into place."

creative encouragement

Popsicle sticks in hand, the girls listened as Coach Tobias delivered a motivational speech before Sectionals.

They curiously eyed the words "pain barrier" written on the sticks as Coach Tobias explained that each girl had to push herself. Then, he had each of them physically break the stick as a metaphor for destroying their barrier.

senior blues

Sporting T-shirts that read "We love our big sis" on senior night, sophomores Carly Grow and Ashley Damjanovich hug their "big sister," co-captain Sam Watanapongse, senior. "If it weren't for the people, I wouldn't have swum. You became a family," Watanapongse said.

"Tobias always had an original way to motivate us," co-captain Christina Guzik, senior, said. "He was creative. He always had a unique speech."

Before State Coach Tobias presented the girls with envelopes containing four keys. Each key represented one of the his four D's to success: dedication, determination, desire and discipline.

seasonal spirit

Dressed in a pair of black lip-print boxers over sparkly black and white tights, co-captain Lisa Rietmann, junior, paraded through the halls with a red Superman cape trailing behind her.

"The point [of the Red and White Meet] was to out-spirit the others then out-swim them," Rietmann said.

In their search for spirit, captains tried to stress team unity.

Before the Lake Central (LC) meet, the captains purchased an Indian piñata to mock their rival's mascot. The team meant to "bust open the piñata the way [they] would beat LC," according to Guzik. Motivational practices like these and the intra-squad meet offered an opportunity for the team to show their spirit and follow their goal of making Top 10 at State.

Addison Del Rio, sophomore

Events:

100 fly, 100 breast, 200 MR, 400 FR

Records:

Highland Invite—100 fly, 100 breast; LAC Meet—200 IM, 100 back; Sectionals—100 fly, 200 MR, 400 FR

State Rankings:

7th—100 fly, 9th—100 breast, 9th—200 MR, 9th—400 FR



on the fly

Ready to plunge back into the water, Addison Del Rio, sophomore, races to a seventh place finish in the 100 fly at the State swim meet. "My favorite part was getting up on the blocks, ready to go," Del Rio said. "I loved the competition."

14-1 7-0 GIRLS' SWIMMING

Season	LaPorte	121-65	Lake Central	62-124	Post-season/Honors	Sectionals	1st	Becky Triemstra
	Crown Point	116-70	Highland	1st		State	8th	Sam Watanapongse
	Highland	130-56	Invite			All Conference		
	Lowell	137-49	JV LAC	1st				
	Penn	105-81	LAC	1st				
Conference	Griffith	117-66	Gavit/Hammond	1st	Post-season/Honors	Jessica Brakulis	All State	
	Valparaiso	121-35	Merrillville	120-63		Addison Del Rio		
	Portage	126-59	Calumet	134-45		Christina Guzik		
	Hamilton SE	3rd	Chesterton	119-67		Liz Hinkleman		
	Invite					Kate Mikels	All State	
						Lisa Rietmann		



Girls' Swimming Team (front row) Natalie Belkairous, Allison Chelgren, Jessica Brakulis, Ashley DeVries, Paige Popravak, Mireya Villalba, Kristen Moran (second row) Addison Del Rio, Ashley Damjanovich, Carly Grow, Julie Kienkapp, Kate Mikels, Cathy Van Der Giessen, Kristi Smith, Danielle Gillund, Sheri Spolnik, Kara Klebs, Rachel Gill, Becky Triemstra (third row) Lisa Rietmann, Christina Guzik, Samantha Watanapongse, Monica Aldulescu, Erica Rangel, Lisa Koscielski, Kelley O'Brian, Liz Hinkleman, Coach Chuck Chelich (back row) Manini Gupta, Jessi Stalmack, Brittany Bohling, Elise Eldert, Julia Konopasek, Natalie Stigall, Nicole Rietmann, Coach Robin Tobias



back together

On a leg of the backstroke, Addison Del Rio, sophomore, propels herself through the water. Team support helped to bolster team spirit, according to Del Rio. "We worked together," Del Rio said. "We pushed each other to work harder. We were motivators for each other."

poolside strategy

To motivate Addison Del Rio, sophomore, Coach Robin Tobias, English teacher, offers his advice.

lineup leader

Arms slicing through the water, co-captain Christina Guzik, senior, practices her backstroke.

BATTLE through strife

With only five seniors, Wrestling Team logs in the extra practice time. The boys drive past Highland and Griffith to clinch first Lake Athletic Conference title in 17 years.

early birds

While most kids slept soundly under their bedcovers, Chris Herr, junior, wiped his forehead after completing his early Thursday morning workout.

Before any sunlight pierced the darkness, the Wrestling Team trudged to practice at 6 a.m. Coach Jim Colias, Wilbur Wright Middle School teacher, called the early meetings to give his team a head start on the competition.

"When you had to wrestle on Saturday morning between eight and nine, everybody was naturally tense," co-captain Tim Hunt, senior, said. "But the practices really helped us out."

young and restless

In his match against Bishop Noll, Dave Estrada, sophomore, went into overtime. Within the first thirty seconds, Estrada scored two crucial points to win.

"All I remembered was hearing Coach Colias yell 'He's got it, he's got it' and being so relieved," Estrada said.

With only five seniors, the Wrestling Team looked to underclassmen for support. While some freshmen seized the

opportunity to play varsity, others motivated the team with their perseverance.

"Although some freshmen only won half their matches, they never gave up," Hunt said. "Their motivation really helped out the team morale."

glory days

Loud cheers rang out from the Hunt household as the team celebrated its first conference title since 1985.

"It was one thing to work hard coming from a difficult situation," Coach Colias said. "But it was another to push yourself past what you thought you could do."

As a relatively young team, the boys fought to win the title that eluded them for 17 years, an accomplishment that gave them little reason to feel defeat, according to Coach Colias.

Tim Hunt, senior

Ending his senior year in sixth place at State, Hunt leaves his mark in wrestling history.

Individual accolades
Conference Champion
Sectional Champion
Regional Champion
Greco-Roman State Champion
Times All-Star Team
143-23 Career record

School titles
Most victories in a single season (42)
Most career wins (143)



Wrestling Team (front row) Yun Tai, Tim Hunt, Murad Omery, Andrew Graves, Jawad Omery, Steve Ziemba, Tim Johnson (second row) Toshiro Toyama, Zak Boswell, Teo Ellis, Jeff Newcomb, Victor Zermagast, Dan Lewis, Art Insurriaga, Mike Shinkan (third row) Coach Jim Colias, Coach Dan Gelarden, Dave Estrada, Nick Murphy, Dave Porter, Pat Scully, Andy Doesburg, Justin Glaser, Paul Raddatz, Shawn Hendron, Donny Yamitch, Matt Coduti, Corey Greeny, Shane Hendron, Coach Brian Clark (last row) Nick Bularzik, Mario Zermagast, Andrew Sharp, Chris Herr, Dave Dziubczynski, Nick Bokowy, Aaron Pleitner, Mark Balicki, Trevor Clipper

above and beyond

After pinning his opponent, Chris Herr, junior, celebrates his Harvest Classic victory. Herr finished second in the 215-lbs division. "After the tournament I pushed myself mentally to work to get the first place finish next time," Herr said.





bottoms up

As his Highland opponent sprawls out, Dan Lewis, freshman, shoots for his legs. After switching weight classes mid-season with teammate Victor Zerngast, Lewis competed at Sectionals as one of two freshmen on the starting lineup. "Although I didn't expect to get out of Sectionals, it was more of a learning experience," Lewis said. "I realized just how hard I had to work."



close call

To turn his opponent on his back, Dave Estrada, sophomore, grapples with his Highland rival. After winning his first round at Semi-State, Estrada lost his next match and a trip to State. "I had the match in my hands, leading four to nothing," Estrada said. "It all disappeared when I made one mistake. I couldn't believe it."

manhunt

Using a headlock, Tim Hunt, senior, forces his opponent down for the point. As the sole wrestler to advance to State, Hunt finished sixth when he lost to the eventual runner-up in quarterfinals.

word to the wise

During one of their pre-practice pep talks, wrestlers hunker down around Coach Jim Colias, Wilbur Wright Middle School teacher. Stressing team unity, the boys mustered confidence from each other, according to Coach Colias. "Because they were so close together, it really meant something if they were able to pull out a win for the team," Coach Colias said.

16-10 WRESTLING

Season	Calumet	46-25	Lowell Invite		Munster Invite	
	East Chicago	41-30	Kankakee	42-25	Hanover	57-21
	Highland	36-22	Valley		Central	
	Lake Central	27-42	Andrean	56-21	Merrillville	34-34
	Calumet Invite		Lowell	25-39	Pioneer	27-21
	FW Snider	17-49	Benton	42-36	Boone Grove	28-39
	Boone Grove	42-27	Central		Morton	60-18
	Southmont	28-45	Boone Grove	30-37	Griffith	28-37
	EC Central	28-40			Whiting	72-12
	Lowell	43-30			Bishop Noll	39-21

Post-season

Conference Tourney 1st

Semi-State Qualifiers

Dave Estrada (103)
Chris Herr (215)
Mario Zerngast (171)
Victor Zerngast (135)

State Qualifier

Tim Hunt (112)

25-9 10-2 VARSITY BASEBALL

Season	Conference	Valparaiso	3-5	Gavit	8-0	Post-season/Honors	Conference	3rd
		Griffith	12-8	Griffith	11-0		Griffith	10-0
		Portage	6-3	Hammond	12-0		Clark	3-4
		Morton	16-0	Lake Central	4-1		Bishop Noll	9-1
		Lowell	15-0	Lake Station	14-3		N. Newton	13-0
		Boone Grove	15-21	Whiting	14-4		Sectionals	
		Bishop Noll	0-1	Calumet	17-0		EC Central	15-3
		Munster Classic		Highland	3-2		Lowell	8-0
		Kankakee		Andrean	2-3		Regionals	
		Valley	1-2	Chesterton	4-3		Valparaiso	10-4
State	Post-season/Honors	Merrillville	6-2			Penn	4-3	
						Logansport	9-4	
						Evansville		
					North	9-1		

Varsity Baseball Team (front row) Dan Strzempka, Brad Nykiel, Aaron Cameron, Jon Noworyta, Vic Anchich, Matt Gornal (second row) Mike Rosen, Elliott Gibbs, Steve Paradzinski, Coach Bob Shinkan, Mike Kalina, Joe Jaksich, Kevin Kutansky (back row) Coach Marty Keil, Paul Obszanski, Rick Balkam, Adam Del Rio, Kurt Keil, Coach Jeff Rosen



masked motives

Listening to the umpire, catcher Brad Nykiel, senior, confers with his Gavit opponent. "Last year Gavit beat us at Conference," Coach Bob Shinkan, math teacher, said. "Our win this year was for redemption."

on the ball

While senior Mike Rosen waits his turn, senior Kurt Keil limbers up his arms at the tee before a game. Rosen, Keil, and seniors Brad Nykiel and Kevin Kutansky all offered helpful advice when needed, according to Coach Bob Shinkan, math teacher. "When I needed to discuss things, those were the four I could always rally with for important matters," Coach Shinkan said.





ready to rock

Preparing to throw the ball, Adam Del Rio, junior, executes a play at a home game. The team completed the regular season and started out at the conference tournament against Griffith with a second place rank.

line of sight

To support a teammate, the Baseball Team directs its attention to the player currently at bat. After playing together for nearly five years, most of the team got along comfortably, according to Mike Rosen, senior.



EYES ON state title

Unranked entering tourney play and with the help of fans and new team leadership, Baseball follows 10 seniors to first-ever State championship

natural leaders

Barking out the question, "WHO ARE WE?" center fielder Mike Rosen, senior, attempted to rile up his fellow Baseball Team members before each game. As one of the ten seniors on the team, Rosen sometimes felt obligated to step up and play the role of team leader.

"[Coach Bob] Shinkan [math teacher] didn't label anyone as captain," Rosen said. "But I was mostly the vocal leader. Last year we had some discrepancies because there were three co-captains, but this year we all stuck together."

Also accepting the role of a natural leader, shortstop Kevin Kutansky, senior, hoped that other baseball players could

talk to about anything," Kutansky said. "If someone was down about something, even if it didn't relate to baseball, I always hoped that I could pick them up."

following routine

In the locker room, the Baseball Team used music to energize themselves before games. However, Enrique Iglesias' pop song "Escape" stood out as the athletes' most often played song, according to Kutansky.

"Some of the guys were infatuated with the song," Kutansky said. "They used to put on shows before the games. It put us in a humorous state."

Other routines that the boys performed included similar warm-ups like running along the fence. Because many of them played together since the age of 12, they had grown accustomed to each other's rituals, according to Rosen.

living proof

Despite the Mustangs' ranking in the Final Four at State last year, the Baseball Team feared that it would not return to the tournament. The combination of young athletes joining the roster and tougher teams entering their sectional division amounted to even further fears, according to Kutansky.

(continued on 143)

ballpark figures

- 8 inning win against Chesterton
- 10 senior players
- 4 one-run losses
- 9 rained-out games
- 75 percent of regular season games won

turn to him in times of need. Guiding his teammates both on and off the field encompassed one of the most essential aspects of baseball, according to Kutansky.

"I wanted to be the type of guy that any player could come and

set to go

With ball in hand and goal in mind, Elliott Gibbs, senior, prepares to deliver his pitch. Putting the team into Regional title game with a two-hitter over Valparaiso June 8, Gibbs entered the State Semifinals with a single-season school record 131 strikeouts and best Logansport, 9-4 to advance.

clenching success

Gritting his teeth in determination, Mike Rosen, senior, gets ready to hit the ball at a home game. As a member of the baseball team since his freshman year, Rosen kept high hopes for the outcome of his senior season. "We definitely had the potential to go back to State," Rosen said. "People realized that if we didn't pick it up [before Sectionals], we were going to be beaten."



rising spirits

With hands and mitts united at a point, the boys on the Baseball Team huddle for motivation before a game. Pre-game rituals often helped the players get into proper mindsets for competition, according to center fielder Mike Rosen, senior.



home turf

Just after catching a ball, first baseman Kurt Keil, senior, warms up before a game at home field. Although the baseball games didn't attract massive crowds, any attending fans helped the team, according to Keil. "It was good to see fans out there and to know that we had some support," Keil said. "It made us feel better while we were playing."

simple release

Just after releasing the ball, left-handed pitcher Mike Penman, sophomore, follows through. Although Penman played on the JV team for most of the season, Coach Bob Shinkan, math teacher, advanced Penman and two other JV players to the varsity roster for Sectionals.

line drive

Standing at the plate, senior Kevin Kutansky awaits his pitch while senior Mike Rosen leads off at third. Although Kevin played football, basketball and baseball during his high school career, baseball remained his favorite sport. "I grew up playing baseball," Kevin said. "As far as wanting to play in the future, baseball was always the only one I wanted to go with."





18-1 JV

Highland	11-6	North Newton	19-1
Highland	12-0	Bishop Noll	12-2
Highland	9-4	Gavit	12-1
Kankakee		Lake Central	1-0
Valley	7-5	Lake Station	22-5
Kankakee		Merrillville	8-3
Valley	11-7	Valparaiso	6-5
Portage	10-0	Valparaiso	4-3
Lowell	4-5	Highland	7-2
Morton	15-0	Morton	13-0
Clark	10-0		

Season

10-2 FRESHMAN

Lowell	13-3	Portage	4-3
Lowell	15-5	Lake Central	
Crown Point	3-1	Invite	6-3
Crown Point	7-0	Lake Central	
Clark	13-3	Invite	5-14
Highland	12-2		
Griffith	4-14		
Merrillville	7-1		
Merrillville	16-8		

Season

EYES ON state title

(continued from 141)

"One of the biggest things was knowing that we had new kids and hoping that we would still gel together as a team," Kutansky said. "We got switched to a tougher Regional this year, too, with more competition like [Valparaiso] and Penn that we normally would have just seen when we went to State."

While early upsets discouraged some of the members on the team, high hopes still lingered in the minds of the senior veterans, according to Rosen. Battling four one-run losses, the team struggled to regain their lost confidence while heading into the post-season.

"I think that because of last year, we were all just striving very hard to get back to State," pitcher Elliott Gibbs, senior, said. "No one thought we would make it last year, so we wanted to prove ourselves again this year."

weathering the blues

Thrust into a season of unpredictable weather, the boys faced unforeseen troubles with 30 mph winds and several rain outs. The rough weather conditions affected the performance of the entire team, according to Rosen.

"Last year we didn't have any problems with the weather at all," first baseman Kurt Keil, senior, said. "It was 70 degrees and nice outside most of the time. But this year we had a ton of cancellations. It was hard sometimes to get into a groove when the weather was constantly changing."

support system

Although the bleachers didn't fill to capacity at each game, the Mustangs' fans played an integral role throughout the season. Knowing that friends and family attended games to support the team helped to encourage all of the boys to perform to the best of their best abilities, according to Keil.

"It helped that there were people behind us at the games when we were doing well," right fielder Matt Gornal, junior, said. "When we weren't doing so well, they pumped us up to do better just by coming out to watch us play."

Replying to Rosen's command, the team screamed out "MUNSTER!" In unison they followed tradition with the seniors and worked towards the hope of once again finding the path to State.



JV Baseball Team (front row) Kyle Martinez, David York, David Noel, Bryan Bokowy, Matt Jillson (second row) Josh Caddick, Matt Lee, Nate Holobowski, Brian Hayes, Jon Caddick, Scott Starewicz (back row) Bart Banach, Mike Penman, Coach Matt Backs, Russ Petersen, Tony Spinoso



Freshman Baseball Team (front row) Steve Ziemba, Jeff De Armond, Mike Svilar, Jim Ryan (second row) Brandon Platt, Mike Nowak, Coach Mike Mikolajczyk, Eric Reed, Zak Boswell (back row) Matt DeRolf, Kevin Strbiak, Mike Hawryszkow, Brent Banach, Ross Petersen, Adam Grunewald

15-11 9-3 VARSITY SOFTBALL

Season	Conference	Lafayette	2-6	Hobart	6-4	Whiting	7-3
		Jefferson		Bishop Noll	2-1	Merrillville	7-6
		Lafayette	8-1	Bloomington	10-0	Calumet	11-0
		Jefferson		North		John Glenn	4-0
		Andrean	1-6	Northrop	1-2	Highland	1-4
		Lowell	7-1	Evansville	1-7	Portage	0-2
		Wheeler	4-1	North			
		Morton	7-1	Gavit	5-2		
		Lake Central	1-2	Griffith	2-5		
		Hanover	0-1	Hammond	11-0		
		Central		Lake Station	4-2		
		Clark	4-0	Crown Point	2-3		

Varsity Softball Team (front row) Sammy Skaggs, Kristi Nishimura, Jessica Andryske, Sarah Stockle, Erin Kolb (second row) Tammy Jones, Amy Parker, Julie Spear, Ashley Velchek, Sami Seligman, Alana Salata (back row) Coach Mike Coil, Stefania Andjelich, Ashley Jasevicius, Coach Jim Davidson, Mary Heaney, Jess Wilson, Coach Tony Rivera



in the zone

With a solid release, captain and pitcher Jess Wilson, senior, hurls the ball toward her Portage opponent. Wilson planned to play softball at St. Xavier University on an almost full scholarship. "It was so relieving to know that my future was actually secured," Wilson said. "I could enjoy my senior season without having the pressure to perform."

armed and dangerous

Twisting her face into a grimace, pitcher Kristi Nishimura, senior, winds up for a pitch while first baseman Ashley Jasevicius, senior, stands guard. Nishimura turned heads at the Gavit game by throwing a total 13 strikeouts.





side by side

After securing the third out, center fielder Mary Heaney, junior, and shortstop Sami Seligman, junior, sprint back to the dugout together. "We had really good team chemistry; everything clicked," Heaney said.

catch of the day

As Merrillville's hitter dashes toward first base, senior Ashley Jasevicius cradles the ball inside her glove. Jasevicius cited fielding as one of her strengths. "I was quick, and I anticipated the ball," Jasevicius said.



READY aim fire

hitting their own pitch

Eager to join a round of "Name That Tune," catcher Ashley Jasevicius, senior, opened her mouth and crooned the first notes of an anonymous song. Her teammates immediately recognized the melody and shouted out the answer.

Jess Wilson, senior

When Wilson accepted nearly a full softball scholarship from St. Xavier University, the future looked bright for the Mustangs' four-year pitcher and captain. Coach Jim Davidson, industrial technology teacher, attributed Wilson's success to her unfailingly positive spirit.

"It was like all the energy I had been putting forth was worth something," Wilson said. "I had always wanted to play softball in college. I was living my dream."

Puzzled by the response, Jasevicius shook her head disappointedly and told them to guess again.

"AJ [Jasevicius] was so tone deaf," left fielder Julie Spear, senior, said. "We all thought she was singing 'Feelings,' but it was 'My Girl.'"

After spending endless hours together on the bus, the Softball Team whipped up its own version of TV shows from "Name That Tune" to "Who's Line Is It Anyway?" The team's collection of games set it apart

Hampered by five injuries and a 'lagging' spirit, the Softball Team shoots to capture the Sectional title after a neck-and-neck loss to rival Lake Central and ends a season of laughter with a tear

from others, according to right fielder Amy Parker, junior. On the way home, Jasevicius belted out another song for her laughing teammates, as loud and off-key as she possibly could.

out of focus

On the field the girls sometimes faltered in hitting the right pitch. The conference game against Griffith marked one of their most discouraging losses, according to third baseman Jessica Andryske, senior.

"We stepped onto the field, and everything we could have possibly imagined went wrong," Andryske said. "We just weren't there to play."

Discovering later that a win against Griffith would have tied the team for first only worsened the blow of defeat. Parker attributed the loss to a lack of motivation.

"At Conference we usually would have been a little more up," Parker said. "But going into it, we weren't focused at all and didn't seem to be motivated."

A sensitive mental attitude characterized another of the team's weaknesses. Every little slip-up could damage

(continued on 146)

READY aim fire

(continued from 145)

the girls' outlook for the remainder of a game, according to Coach Jim Davidson, industrial technology teacher.

"We lost our focus," Coach Davidson said. "We had a hard time motivating ourselves to play hard and made too many mistakes—mental and physical."

salt in the wound

Physical obstacles continued to plague the team with the slew of injuries that struck the girls. A popped kneecap, two wounded knees, a broken nose and a broken finger plucked five key players out of the lineup during the season.

"The lineup was juggled around so much that we could never get settled into a routine," Parker said. "It was harder to get into a groove."

Once Sectionals rolled around, the girls gladly welcomed back their teammates, hoping to redeem themselves after an injury-ridden phase.

fight to the death

Entering the Lake Central game, the Mustangs knew their foe would put up a good fight. In fact, the game transformed into a fight to the pitcher's death.

Backed by a powerful pitcher, Brooke Baker, senior, Lake Central nearly

prevented its opponent from scoring any runs, according to Spear. However, several of the Mustangs' own pitchers lashed back and created a battle in which neither team scored until the end, when LC killed the combat with a 2-1 win.

Though the taste of victory eluded the girls that day, they prided themselves on avoiding the sting of a crushing defeat.

"We played them so well that it boosted our confidence," Parker said. "We knew if we could improve on the mistakes we made, we could beat them."

big girls don't cry

A softer side hid behind the tough image the girls displayed on the field. Exchanging clever and creative gifts on Senior Night, the team shared a final dose of laughter—and a few tears.

"Everyone was crying," Spear said. "Each senior had at least one underclassman they could talk to. I'd never been able to do that before. The fact that we all trusted each other and asked each other for advice made us really tight."

As the night came to a close, one present remained. Each of the seniors received a burned CD inscribed with the words, "There's no crying in baseball. Good thing this is softball."



JV Softball Team (front row) Nicole Enright, Alex Morley, Shannon O'Keefe, Lauren Biel, Christina Domenico (second row) Coach Mike Coil, Katie Kupski, Britney Meier, Holly Ispas, Erica Stout, Rachel Gill (back row) Melissa Jurich, Maddie Heaney, Sherree Hanrahan, Lori Andjelich, Elizabeth Puteerko



Freshman Softball Team (front row) Nicole Enright, Lori Andjelich, Erica Stout, Holly Ispas, Becky Sons (second row) Coach Tony Rivera, Christina Domenico, Katie Korem, Jessica Gorman, Aubrey Velasquez, Rachel Gill (back row) Katie Harvey, Jessica Arens, Erica Koselke, Rachel Myszak, Melissa Jurich

	VARSITY	15-1	5-0	JV		6-2	FRESHMAN		
Post-season/Honors	Sectionals			Lowell	11-1	Crown Point	17-7	Morton	15-7
	Highland	0-1		Crown Point	8-1	Lake Central	2-6	Andean	3-2
				Merrillville	9-4	North Newton	22-1	Eisenhower	15-5
	All Conference			Hobart	4-1	Highland	11-1	Gavit	12-23
	First Team			Bishop Noll	13-4	Portage	2-1	Argo	12-0
	Mary Heaney			Hanover	6-2	Lowell JV Invite		Hammond	17-0
	Amy Parker			Central		Valparaiso	10-3	Lake Station	20-0
				Griffith	11-0	Lowell	5-4	Marian	3-6
				Lowell	1-0			Catholic	

ball of fire

In a lunge position, left fielder Julie Spear, senior, prepares to launch the ball in. Spear's habit of knocking opponents down with her slides

earned her the nickname "The Animal." "I aimed right for their ankles," Spear said. "There was a better chance they would drop the ball."



head over heels

With her foot firmly planted on second base, Sarah Stockle, sophomore, tumbles to the ground with the ball at the Portage game. Unable to seize key hits and bring runners home, the Mustangs lost 0-2.



homeward bound

Careful to avoid a tag from her Merrillville opponent, Mary Heaney, junior, makes a run for home plate. After injuring her knee at practice in the middle of the season, Heaney sat on the bench for a week and a half.



eagle eye

Eyes studying home plate, Stephanie Andjelic, sophomore, contemplates her next pitch. Andjelic sharpened her pitching skills year-round with a professional coach at Dave Griffin's Baseball School in Griffith.

slap happy

After the Portage game, Coach Jim Davidson, industrial technology teacher, high fives their opponents as the rest of the team follows behind in a single file line.

up to par

With his eyes on the ball, captain Tim Platek, junior, digs himself out of a bunker. After years perfecting his short game, Tim fired a 76 at Lake Hills to lead the Mustangs to a 316 one-stroke Sectional victory over Lake Central.

in the wash

Between holes Joey Platek, freshman, cleans a golf ball for his next shot. With a score of 74, Joey topped all area golfers to help the team win the Conference Tourney. His brother, Tim Platek, junior, finished in second place, just one shot behind him.

holding ground

Lying flat on the green, Shaun Dunn, junior, anticipates the path of his ball. Dunn finished his year on the First Team All Conference along with three other teammates.



13-2	11-1	BOYS' GOLF			5-3	JV
Season	Conference	Lowell	155-175	Lake Station	1 5 5	Lake Central/ 3rd
		Lake Central/ 2nd		197Whiting	160-262	Portage
		Portage		Rensselaer	3rd	Lowell
		Morton	165-204	Invite		Morton
		Clark	154-259	Highland	156-171	Crown Point
				Andean	160-157	Griffith
		Crown Point	169-177	Lake Central	1st	Highland
		Bishop Noll	161-188	Invite		Andean
		Gavit	162-208	Post-season		
		Griffith	155-186	Sectionals		
		Calumet	172-217	1st	316	
		Hammond	158-215			
		Kankakee	2nd			
		Valley Invite				

to the tee

As he finishes his swing, Joey Platek, freshman, tracks the flight of his ball at Woodmar Country Club. Constantly feeding off each others advice,

the Platek brothers looked towards each other for guidance and support. "Tim's power was incredible, and his shots reflected that," Joey said.



BACK IN full swing

Closing the season as the best in the Lake Athletic Conference, the Boys' Golf Team bounces back to win Lake Central Invite, Conference Tourney and third consecutive Sectional championship

moment to lead

With 30 spectators eyeing his swing, captain Tim Piatek, junior, smacked the ball down the fairway at the Lake Hills golf course. Teeing off second in the final group, Tim played with three other number-one seeds from Lake Central, Valparaiso and Portage.

Attempting to avenge an early-season loss to Portage, Tim knew exactly what he needed to do to help his team out.

"Coming off the front nine, I knew if I shot a 37 on the back, I could win the tournament," Tim said.

Shooting just that on the back nine, Tim won the Lake Central Invitational and helped the team defeat Highland by 10 strokes.

weather torn

Heavy showers and 35-degree weather hit the five varsity golfers hard as they strolled the back nine at the Kankakee Valley Invitational. Toughened by practice in adverse conditions, the boys snatched second place at the tournament.

Joey Piatek, freshman

Conference

Medalist

Longest drive:

320 yards

What was golf's main appeal?

"I started very early, and it was hard not to like something that you were good at."

How did your brother help you?

"I always tried to match Tim [Piatek, junior]. The sky was the limit, and we took our games upward."

"During the off-season we purposely practiced when it was raining because we knew there would be no one out there," Tim said. "Because of that, the rain didn't really hurt us."

The inclement weather offered yet another advantage for Mike Tiberi, sophomore, who pulled off a score of 82 in the rough conditions.

"The rain had a way of making everyone on the course equal because it leveled the playing ground," Tiberi said.

from the heart

After scoring the lowest at the Highland Conference match, Ryan Miller, junior, tucked a small toy heart into his backpack. Given to the player who displayed the most heart on the course, the object fell into the hands of four of the five varsity members at some point during the season.

"Because we were all capable of shooting the best, there wasn't any pressure on the course," Miller said. "If someone shot bad, you always knew you had four other guys to back you up."

Even though the Varsity Boys' Golf Team made it through the year without any seniors, the golfers suffered only one conference loss to Andrean. With a 13-2 overall record, the golfers ended the season with a Lake Athletic Conference Tourney and Sectional Championship.



Boys' Golf Team (front row) Ryan Miller, Matt Banach, Chad Holajter, Bryan Kowalczyk (second row) Mike Tiberi, Shaun Dunn, Coach Brian Clark, Mack Rawden, Mike Shinkan (back row) Tim Piatek, Adam Kaufman, Joey Piatek, Nick Vrabel, Jim Kaczka, Steve Paarlberg

one way

Crouched low to judge the terrain, Ryan Miller, junior, determines the direction of his next putt. "Taking my time and doing the same routine helped calm me down," Miller said.

16-4 8-2 GIRLS' TENNIS

Season	Conference	A Team	Lake Central	2-3
		Lowell	Andreon	2-3
		Crown Point	Penn	1-4
		Gavit	Highland	5-0
		St. Joe	Conference	
		Bishop Noll	Morton	5-0
		Carmel Invite	6th	4-1
		Lake Station	Andreon	2-3
		Merrillville	7th	Valparaiso
		Doubles	Plymouth	3-2
Post-season	Conference	Regionals		
		Gavit	4-1	
		Lake Central	3-2	
		B Team	Penn	0-5
		Lowell	5-0	Highland
		Crown Point	4-1	Valparaiso
		Gavit	5-0	Plymouth
		St. Joe	3-2	
		Bishop Noll	4-1	
		Lake Station	5-0	

Season	Conference	A Team	Lake Central	2-3
		Lowell	Andreon	2-3
		Crown Point	Penn	1-4
		Gavit	Highland	5-0
		St. Joe	Conference	
		Bishop Noll	Morton	5-0
		Carmel Invite	6th	4-1
		Lake Station	Andreon	2-3
		Merrillville	7th	Valparaiso
		Doubles	Plymouth	3-2
Post-season	Conference	Regionals		
		Gavit	4-1	
		Lake Central	3-2	
		B Team	Penn	0-5
		Lowell	5-0	Highland
		Crown Point	4-1	Valparaiso
		Gavit	5-0	Plymouth
		St. Joe	3-2	
		Bishop Noll	4-1	
		Lake Station	5-0	



Girls' Tennis Team (front row) Jill Young, Lauren Eidam, Stephanie Coulis, Ryann Perlinski, Celia Gonzalez, Amanda Manoski, Rachel Sepiol, Taryn Lotak (second row) Sheiphal Gandhi, Cara Witecki, Kavita Nana, Jen Rogowski, Lisa Krismanick, Jill Sinchak, Lauren Cherrier, Jessica Acosta, Julie Nelson, Emily Hoban, Liz Anderson, Neema Shah (third row) Marnan Campos, Elise Eldert, Kristina Marini, Giane Salvacion, Tina Shieh, Coach Dawn Fessler, Manini Gupta, Euna Choi, Booram Ur, Sara Schulte, Mireya Villalba, Amanda Porta (fourth row) Shannon Harvey, Nicole Castor, Ashley Alters, Shivani Sharma, Emily Elberti, Janushi Dalal, Mirijana Lakich, Mirjana Repac, Kristen Brazel, Michelle Jones, Renee Schmitt, Jayme Jedrzejczak (back row) Katie Landowski, Connie Kuo, Nikki Bland, Tosca Salvacion, Morgan Wagner, Kate Kerner, Michelle McIntyre, Nidhi Kansal, Dijita Sundi, Amanda Stamos

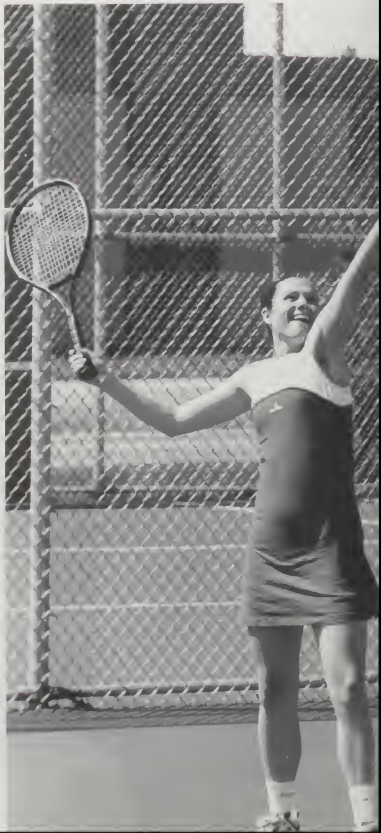
driving force

With all her might, captain Lauren Eidam, senior, adds topspin to her forehand return. Eidam used her many years of tennis experience to help advance the girls. "If I saw something that I could help with, I tried to give them some advice like, 'Try not to miss your returns because they are the most important.'"



up for grabs

Tossing the tennis ball into the air, Rachel Sepiol, senior, prepares to serve. Alongside Ryann Perlinski, sophomore, Sepiol played number two doubles. "I was a senior and it was over," Sepiol said. "I remembered being in awe of a girl who had played doubles, and I hoped I had inspired a girl to play doubles."





hands down

In a show of good sportsmanship, Jill Young, sophomore, shakes the hand of St. Joe's coach. "St. Joe was a good tone setter," Young said. "No matter how hard the game was, we always seemed to pull through."

bottom line

Pen in hand, Coach Dawn Fessler, social studies teacher, jots down the team's lineup. "[The lineup] was pretty clear cut," Coach Fessler said. "It was a luxury. If there was a discrepancy, they would play it out."



SERVING notice

bugging out

With red ribbons and ladybug charms laced into their shoes and ladybug stickers glued to their hands, the team strutted onto the courts to face St. Joe. Choosing ladybugs as the team mascot, the girls kept them all year for good luck.

The team also received a motivational

letter. Mottoes such as "It's not bragging if you can back it up" focused their minds on upcoming games.

"When I saw the letter, it motivated me to get pumped," captain Lauren Eidam, senior, said.

pacemaker

Using ladybug ornaments and letters, the girls prepared for long-time rival St. Joe. With the score tied at 2-2, the team's win hinged on a number one doubles game. Amanda Manoski, senior, and Ryann Perlinski, sophomore, entered the third set with the entire team watching their game.

"The whole team

Adopting the motto 'It's not bragging if you can back it up,' the Girls' Tennis Team follows up its loss at Conference with a tenth consecutive Regional title thanks to Mirjana Lakich's perseverance to play critical matches with a sprained ankle

was on the bleachers rooting them on whenever they got a point," Rachel Sepiol, senior, said. "Winning against St. Joe said we could play competitively with a better team."

After 2.5 hours of play, Perlinski and Manoski came out the winners with a victory that set the tone for the rest of the season, according to Perlinski.

playing through the pain

At the regional match against Lake Central (LC), eight girls trotted onto the courts. One by one the girls finished their matches until only junior Mirjana Lakich remained. The pressure mounted not only from Lakich's LC rival Lauren Briski but also from a sprained ankle.

"I was apprehensive and trying to decide if my ankle could make it," Lakich said. "I read the papers that day and knew it was going to come down to me."

With her team's support, Lakich won the first set 6-4 but lost the second 3-6. A short break filled with reassuring words prepared a limping Lakich for a third set.

"I was thinking that my whole team was depending on me," Lakich said. "I had to pull through for them; there was no choice in the matter. I had to do it."

Tied 4-4, the fate of the girls' tenth consecutive return to Semi-state rested on Lakich winning the last two points. As Briski hit the ball into the net, the crowd flooded the court to congratulate Lakich.

What motivated you to play tennis?

"When I was four, I took lessons in the park, and my aunt and grandpa taught lessons at the park. Through our family I grew up with it."

Rachel Sepiol, senior

"I just did it for fun. Knowing that the girls were there made me want to be there. I didn't know if I would have played if they weren't there."

Captain Lauren Eidam, senior

"I thought it would be something different to do since I played almost every other sport. I grew to love it because it was fun. I knew that this was a sport I could keep with me until I grew old."

Amanda Manoski, senior

IN THE long run

Despite a lack of motivation spurred by the poor weather conditions, the Boys' Track Team wins the Conference Championship, places third at Sectionals and qualifies in seven events for Regionals

head start

Engulfed in Russell Crowe's gruesome fighting scenes from "Gladiator," junior Adam Stuebe pumped himself up for the next day's meet.

"Watching 'Gladiator' pumped me up by seeing him kill everyone," Stuebe said. "His speeches motivated me. He always said insightful things people might not have noticed that I did."

Coaches motivated the Boys' Track Team by helping transform a sometimes apathetic attitude into an excited one ready to win Conference. The boys responded to the challenge, according to Assistant Coach Steve Lopez, social studies teacher. Richie White, senior, knew that the coaches ensured that the boys didn't lose sight of their goals.

"[The coaches] lit a fire under us and kept us going so that by Conference it was still there," White said.

fair-weather fans

The team struggled with the season's cold, rainy and windy conditions, according to Coach Lopez. The weather posed a problem not only for runners but also for those in field events, including pole vaulter Mark Susoreny, senior.

"I bought a new pole for myself and expected to get 14 or 15 feet but ended up going only 13 because there was a lot of bad weather," Susoreny said. "It was really cold and scary to bend the pole. Cold things were more likely to break."

Some team members noticed that the weather stifled motivation also. Jonathan Meacham, junior, noted how cold rain on Sectionals affected his performance.

"I knew when it rained, I didn't want to run," Meacham said. "I wanted them to cancel [so I could] go home."

bare necessities

After clearing a spot on his bedroom floor, sophomore Donny Yamtich stretched out his body while listening to classic rock songs by The Who.

As a necessary preparation, Yamtich stretched in different positions for a duration of 20 deep breaths. He then retired to bed feeling calm enough to come together for the meet the next day.

"I just did it to help me avoid extraneous thoughts," Yamtich said. "This year I had been really focused."

As a tradition before Conference, Tony Doesburg, senior, organized a team

meal loaded with carbohydrates to gain a physical edge for competing. At Fazoli's the boys chowed down on pasta in order to energize themselves.

"It was a chance to get together before the biggest meet of the year," Doesburg said. "Sectionals was more individually oriented, and we liked to do a team thing."

Pushing a bunch of tables into a corner, the team enjoyed a loud meal together before heading out to conquer Conference.

What was the funniest track memory?

"We were running down Ridge Road and coming from the right of a lady in a big truck, but she was only looking left. She started to move when we were crossing, and we were freaked. When we started to go in front, she kept looking left; and as she was going, I had to push off the car. Chuck [Marnich, senior] banged his palm against the truck, and the lady sped off and didn't care."

Donny Yamtich, sophomore

6-4 11-0 BOYS' TRACK

Season	Conference	6-4 11-0 BOYS' TRACK				Post-season/Honors	Sectionals		State Qualifiers
		Rank	Team	Rank	Team		Rank	Team	
		1st	Hammond/	1st	Andean		3rd	Mark Susoreny	
		3rd	LAC Invite				20th	Richie White	
			Lake Central	2nd	Lake Central			Donny Yamtich	
		4th	Mustang	1st	Invite			Mario Zerngast	
			Lowell/Crown					State Qualifiers	
		2nd	Point	2nd	Calumet			Robbie Collins	
			Griffith/		Invite			Chuck Marnich	
		2nd	Calumet	1st	LAC Meet			Richie White	
		1st	Lake Station/	1st	LAC 9-10			Donny Yamtich	
			Morton		Meet				

head to head

Seconds after the starting gun fires, Robbie Collins, junior, tries to outspurt his Calumet and Griffith opponents during the first leg of the 3200m relay.





charging ahead

Keeping the goal of a shorter time in mind, Richie White, senior, races solo at the home meet against Lake Central. White came down with bronchitis toward the season's end, which especially affected his performance in the post-season. "It was a bad injury for me because the more I ran, the worse it got," White said.



leaps and bounds

While leaping through the air, Tony Doesburg, senior, struggles to propel himself as far as possible in the long jump. "This year was tough for me," Doesburg said. "I missed the whole pre-season because I pulled my quad. "It kept me out of indoor meets and kept my times slower than last year, which was unfortunate as a senior."

safety first

Protected by a mandatory helmet, Dan Lewis, freshman, falls to clear the height during his pole vault at the Highland meet. "I had to push myself farther than I was able to go, and I didn't make it over," Dan said. "[Highland's] standards were in centimeters and ours were in inches, so I took a guess and guessed wrong."



Boys' Track Team (front row) Tom Barnes, Adam Castor, Tony Doesburg, Greg Eckrich, Allen Hill, Adam Slaboski, Joel Barnes (second row) Matt Baker, Dan Larson, Jordan Barnes, Bryan Adams, Mark Burek, David Resler, Jonathan Meacham, Mark Balicki (third row) Justin Smith, Erickson Ferraz, Rob Larson, Jimmy Knesek, Aaron Pleitner, Chris Solent, Brett Stewart (fourth row) Brian Rubesha, Teddy Horowitz, Ryan Bowers, Donny Yantich, Billy Lewis, Robbie Collins, Mario Zerngast (back row) Coach Ed Woodrick, Adam Stuebe, Prince Kwateng, Dan Lewis, Jon Fisher, Mark Surosorey, Assistant Coaches Aaron Brown and Steve Lopez

Season	Conference	Lake Central	50-77	Penn Invite	5th	Sectionals Regionals	2nd 6th
		Crown Point/ Lowell	1st	Highland Invite	2nd		
		Bishop Noll/ Gavitt	1st	Mustang Invite	1st		
		Morton/ Griffith	1st	Calumet	Invite 1st		
		Andreas/ Hammond	1st	LAC Meet	1st		
				LAC 9/10	1st		
					Post-season		

KEEPING in touch

twist of fate

For co-captain Peach Roman-Lagunas, junior, the day of Sectionals started off just like other—that is, until the sickness started to set in.

Slated to run in the 3200m relay, the mile and the two mile, Roman-Lagunas struggled against aches and dizziness to stay within the top three during the Regional-qualifying races.

"I fainted about three times on the track," Roman-Lagunas said. "They didn't make me run, but I knew that I had to for the team points."

In spite of the turn of events, 13 individuals qualified for Regionals in all 15 events, placing second behind Lake Central. The team focused on the 3200m relay because it offered the greatest chance of advancing to State, according to co-captain Katy Stine, senior.

"I was extremely confident that it was going to happen," Stine said. "In any case we knew it would be a competitive race and that we'd get our best time."

Freshman Ashley Devries helped put the team in striking distance. Qualifying in three events, Devries advanced to Regionals in the 100m, 200m and 400m.

With top teams competing for only three spots, edging out distance teams

flying high

After lunging into the air at the Mustang Invite, Julie Bassetto, sophomore, follows through with her form and completes her landing. In addition to competing in field events such as the long jump, Bassetto also ran the 100m and 300m hurdles and placed first at the Calumet Sectional to qualify for a chance at State.

would prove tough, according to Stine. With the Lake Central relay weakened by a runner with bad shins; however, the girls focused on their first chance to send a group to State in two years.

friends and foes

Feet firmly planted at the starting line, sophomore Amanda Shike waited for the beginning of the 800m race. Eyeing the opponent on her right, she shot her a smile and wished her good luck.

"Track was a sport where you had rivalry between teams, but you didn't act like it," Shike said. "There wasn't a whole lot of verbal argument. You let your running do your talking."

As a social sport, track allowed bonds to form both within younger and older team members and the other competitors, according to Coach Scott McAlister, social studies teacher.

the running tab

13 Regional qualifiers

0 Conference losses

4 members of the

3200m relay who

gave up junk food

9 top-ranking teams at

the Chesterton Invite

1 win against Lake

Central at the

Highland Invite





handy work

With baton in hand, Lisa Rietmann, junior, makes the pass to co-captain Katy Stine, senior, during the 3200m relay at the Mustang Invite. "We knew each other's limits," Rietmann said. "We could tell how each other was feeling by the way we ran."

leg up

Prepping herself before her run in the 300 hurdles, Kelly Fray, freshman, stretches out at the Gavitt Conference. "We all got along great," Fray said. "Even for the freshman/sophomore meet, a lot of the older girls came."



going the distance

Focused on staying ahead of her competitors at the Mustang Invite, co-captain Peach Roman-Lagunas, junior, works her way through the last leg of the mile. "I really wanted to start running some real distance events like the mile and two-mile races," Roman-Lagunas said. "I was happy when I was able to keep building on my mile time."

lean on me

Burying her head in a shoulder for comfort, Jessica Stalmack, freshman, breaks down with Coach Dirk Sloan, Wilbur Wright Middle School teacher, after catching a hurdle with her foot at the Calumet Sectional. With Coach Scott McAlister, social studies teacher, moving to Homewood-Flossmoor the following year, Coach Sloan also debated a move to Michigan.



Girls' Track Team (front row) Nikki Williamson, Lisa Rietmann, Suzanne Quasny, Lauren Ziemba, Lea Pupillo, Katy Stine, Peach Roman-Lagunas, Katie Thompson, Karen Lindemann, Julia Konopasek (second row) Kersten Kelly, Michelle Potter, Heather Haneman, Lindsey Steele, Melissa Obszanski, Samantha Corda, Amanda Shike, Julie Bassetto, Brittany Bohling, Justine Bauer (third row) Maritza Roque, Alex Ruich, Natalie Samano, Tamara Jones, Kim Markovich, Ashley Devries, Jessica Stalmack, Kelly Fray, Lauren Torres (fourth row) Jenna Flores, Kinnary Patel, Reesie Davis, Erin Joseph, Stephanie Brajak, Simal Turan, Diana Bozovic, Hana Keil (back row) Coach Dirk Sloan, Coach Rob McCall, Jessica Solis, Darcie Kozlowski, Katie Daniels, Erin McGuan, Alissa Rosario, Coach Scott McAlister

batter up

In the wrestling room for baseball practice, Mike Rosen, senior, prepares to hit the ball off the tee while Brad Nykiel, senior, waits in line. Although Mike served as a captain on the team, he practiced all year. "The most important thing to do was to keep swinging," Mike said. "It needed to become a muscular memory so you didn't have to think about it."



support FOR THE cause

Look through
an athlete's
eyes to learn
the impact of
fan support

"In football half the fun was in the fans. When I ran on the field, being in front of my friends and parents energized me. I did my personal best in track, but that was when I realized how important fans were. In football I got that extra drive because I was playing for the fans."

Tony Doesburg, senior



first aid

Taking a quick time-out from the sectional game, Mr. John Doherty, team trainer, tapes senior Erin Kolb's jammed finger. Athletes often turned to Mr. Doherty, whom many called "Doc," when they suffered injuries.

bowled over

Ready to release the ball, Darryl Wenner, freshman, challenges another Bowling Club team at Stardust Bowl in Dyer. Darryl also sharpened his skills by joining a Saturday bowling league. "I bowled twice a week, so I figured that was enough practice for me," Darryl said.





Taking advantage of the off-season to hone their skills, student athletes build work-out regimens and follow personalized practices to come out on top in sports

SPORTING CHANCE

every MINUTE counts

Slipping into a pair of sweatpants and a sweat-shirt, Chrissy DiCostanzo, senior, prepared to work out. But instead of heading to the gym, she plunged into the swimming pool.

As a part of conditioning for the volleyball season, Chrissy participated in this exercise several times before her first game. To condition for the season, Chrissy also ran and lifted weights to keep in shape with the rest of the team.

"It helped to get your muscles back into the swing of things," Chrissy said. "Most people hated the pool exercises because we had to wake up early, but I thought it really helped a lot."

After the school wrestling season ended, Tim Hunt, senior, participated in an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) season and a national competition. To stay in his weight class, Tim followed a structured exercise regimen.

"I ran a lot and did less intense weight lifting; I needed to get stronger without gaining a lot of weight," Tim said.

As a swimmer Becky Triemstra, sophomore, used similar motivation to attain her goals. She competed individually on the USA Swimming Team, leading up to State and U.S. Sectionals. Practicing a total of 22 times a week, Becky constantly tried to improve her strokes.

"I loved the sport," Becky said. "Other people loved it, too; but they, unlike me, may not have seen it as something for college," Becky said.

Student athletes conditioned themselves for sports seasons and to keep up with the competition year-round. Some chose to remain a team player even during the off-season, while others formed their own routines to stay on top of the game.

mane attraction



In accordance with swim team tradition, freshman Jeff Gaik allows seniors Brad Farnsley and Steve Chovanec, sophomore Tony Gallagher and freshman Mike Mashura to shave his head. "It prepared us mentally, letting us know Sectionals was coming quick," Steve said.



bench buddies

At World Gym Dave Ha, senior, spots Brian Hmurovich, senior, at the bench press. "I felt out of shape, and I wanted to get bigger," Dave said. "I felt better after I worked out."

After climbing out of the pool in her drenched outfit, Chrissy dried off and moved on to a more traditional form of conditioning.

daily grind

At a park in Lansing, Nick Brazinsky, junior, "grinds" on a rail. Nick hoped plans for a town skate park would come through. "I had to go all over to find a place to skate," Nick said.

just for kicks

With fast footwork seniors Jon Wendell and Teruo Toyama play hackysack in the hallway after school. Whenever boredom taunted Jon, he usually fished out a hackysack from his pocket and passed the time with a quick game. "Hacking required eye-foot coordination and soccer skills," Jon said. "It was a way to practice ball handling."

to the pointe

With her toe pointed and balanced on the bar, Nikki Patterson, sophomore, warms up in her advanced ballet class at Donna Brum's Dance Studio. Nikki took classes three times a week and joined the studio's dance company to exercise her body and satisfy her love for dance.

suck it up

Clenching the bars, Brad Nykiel, senior, works his deltoids on the rowing machine. Any student athlete could use the school weight room.



learning THE ropes

As a member of a youth rock climbing team, sophomore TJ Surma sharpens his climbing experience

How long he's rock climbed: eight years

Time he spent building his own practice wall: six months

Where he's climbed: Arizona, Washington and Colorado

How often he practices: "I climb at the gym at least every other day, and it helps me keep sharp on my skills."

What makes the sport stand out: "There are no excuses when you compete because the only competition is yourself."





Thirsting for action after the school day ends, students cruise down grinding rails and fling airborne Frisbees to please individual tastes and preferences

SPORTING CHANCE

coasting RIGHT along

Adrift on a cruise ship and surrounded by older kids, a seven-year-old boy darted his eyes back and forth at the ping pong balls whizzing by. The curious child slowly picked up a paddle, ready to take a crack at the sport himself.

Eight years later, Shreyas Joshi, sophomore, stepped into the Commons, grabbed a paddle and challenged his friend to a match. Striking the ball with the form of a tennis stroke, Shreyas defended his view of ping pong as a true sport.

"Ping pong was extremely athletic when you played competitive matches," Shreyas said. It was very fast. You needed to control the ball and focus."

Having played tennis since the age of three, Shreyas extracted much of his technique from early experience. Another sport sparked interest in Kelly Fray, freshman, at a young age. Starting in elementary school, she traveled weekly to St. John Ice Arena for figure skating lessons.

With the help of an individual coach, Kelly learned how to execute spins, the single axel, the double toe loop and the double salchow. Mastering these tricks transformed Kelly into a more experienced judge of professional skaters.

"I loved watching figure skating," Kelly said. "I knew what was going to happen. I could tell from the takeoff if they were going to fall or not. I could just relate to it really well."

While Kelly took to the ice, Dave Ha, senior, hit the weights after school. To receive a more intensive workout than one at home, Dave traveled to World Gym every weekday to stay in shape.

"They had more equipment for different areas," Dave said. "I just had one machine that worked on everything; it didn't isolate parts of the body."

By maxing out on the bench or perfecting killer serves, students ventured into the world of non-school sports on their own. Shreyas fired away, showing off his game that took eight years to refine.

on the fly

After school lets out, Drew Hauflaine, sophomore, and Jessica Brakulis, freshman, play Frisbee at White Oak Park. "I thought it was very important [to play sports]," Drew said. "It was good to keep in shape."



cool runnings
Dressed for windy weather, Amanda Shike, sophomore, treks past the school. Amanda ran five times a week to focus on her running form for track and cross country. "[Running] was such a unique hobby," Amanda said. "It set you apart from the rest."

down in history

Ready on the ice, Steve Desancic, senior, waits for the oncoming play at the Homewood Flossmoor Ice Arena. The Munster Ice men placed second at State for the first time since 1975. "It was a huge success," Steve said. "We lost eight seniors, but we still made it to State."



shot IN THE dark

Discover the costs and lingo of paintball

Adding it all up...

Base gun: \$200-800

Nitrogen system: \$400

Mask: \$40-100

Paintballs (one day): \$40

Common Terms...

Hopper-the cartridge on the top of the gun where paintballs are loaded

Knocking-tapping on a bunker someone is hiding behind to remove them from the game

Gogged-struck in the goggles with a paintball

Bounce-when a paintball strikes a person but doesn't break

calling the shots

While scouting out the opposition at Glenwood Country Club, Mike Strain, sophomore, eyes his opponent through his Impulse paintball gun while his brother David, sweeps the field. Mike, David and sophomore John Perkins and senior Matt Guanzon, formed a professional team of 10 members to compete.



standing guard

With his feet guarding the ball and his next play in mind, Greg Pottorff, junior, maneuvers around to keep possession of the ball. Playing indoor soccer for seven years, Greg competed at the Willy Roy Soccer Dome in Dolton, IL every Monday in the men's under 18 league. "I played indoor [soccer] because I was going to play in college," Greg said. "I had to maintain my touch."



face to face

Running through their routine for the final practice before national competition, the Senior Allstars perform at M2 Dance Center. "Senior Allstars was fun to be in because Poms was way more stressful," Kathryn Wickland, junior, said.

triple team

To block the drive to the basket, seniors Elliott Gibbs and James Olasebikan and sophomore Nate Holobowski of the Rockets crowd sophomore Mike Penman during a Sunday biddy ball game. The Rockets ended the season in first at 14-1.





From hockey taking second at State for the first time since 1975 to soccer lovers making 30-minute trips to Dolton, IL for practice, students seek out team sports to satisfy drives

SPORTING CHANCE

nowhere TO hide

Tension gripped the ten Senior Allstars as they anxiously anticipated the results of their national competition in Orlando. The leader in the final round, the team waited for their weeks of practices to pay off with a first-place finish.

When the team placed fourth out of ten teams in the Senior Allstar Jazz division, shock outweighed celebration, according to Kathryn Wickland, junior.

"We didn't know what to say," Kathryn said. "For us it was our best performance, and it should have won. We were all really upset and crying, and a lot of people came up to us and said we were robbed. We couldn't believe it."

Finding alternatives to the pressure and strain of school sports, Kathryn found her niche elsewhere. Because the school didn't sponsor a hockey team, Brian Tepper, sophomore, also turned to a local team to fuel his passion for the sport.

"I had been watching hockey since I was about six or seven," Brian said. "I played roller hockey after that. When I got into high school, I knew it was what I wanted to do because I had been doing a lot of sports my whole life."

While coasting to second place at state finals drew some students to the ice rink, others opted for a more informal setting. In Bowling Club to both socialize and compete, Mack Rawden, freshman, used the pressure-free atmosphere.

"Pretty much our whole team bowled in a league at Stardust on Saturday," Mack said. "We started off pretty strong because a lot of teams took us lightly as a freshman team. We were there mostly to just hang out and have a good time."

Whether using recreational sports simply as a social outlet or relying on them to bolster skills, students flocked to the courts after school hours. From heading to Stardust every Monday to checking an opponent on the ice, students sought out athletic opportunities even in the off-season.

As the Senior Allstars absorbed the shock of their rank, their spirits sunk. Confident in their skills, however, the girls walked away with the consolation of the highest level of competition.



on the ball

To sharpen their techniques, sophomores Julie Bassetto and Nancy Bielefeldt pause during a break in the action at Purdue Calumet. Some volleyball team members practiced two hours Mondays and Wednesdays in the off-season.





fit to be tied

The question of whether you fulfilled the school standards remained unanswered until you cracked your personal code. Since ambitions varied, each of you deciphered an individual **code red** to pursue.

- Purple and blue balloons spilled out as you opened your locker adorned with streamers and signs advertising your 16th birthday, and your friends embarrassed you at lunch by conducting a cafeteria chorus in singing "Happy Birthday."
- Gritting your teeth as the needle traced across your skin in the form of a blue and green dragon tattoo that spiraled down your lower back, you satisfied the need to express your individuality.
- You didn't know whether to laugh or cry in AP Composition when Mrs. Mary Yorke, English Department chair, insisted she really did know how to give an 'A,' contrary to popular belief.
- After delaying until the last minute to practice your ISSMA piano solo, you spent three extra hours at your lesson and rubbed your fingers raw to perfect Claude Debussy's "First Arabesque" just in time for the January district competition.

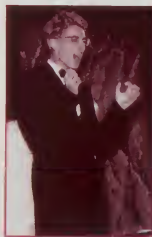
While the school mapped out certain expectations, you colored in the path that led to your destination. You defined your lifestyle by **cracking the code**.

“Dressing up differently was an extension of my personality. It was something I did that set me apart from the rest.”

Mike McCullough, junior

singular style

Decked out in suspenders, taped glasses and a pocket protector for "Nerd Day," Mr. Brian Clark, English teacher, shows his support for spirit week. During their last chance to take part in float building, seniors Katy Stine, Lauren Eidam, Yasemin Zeytinoglu, Angie Meyers and Karen Lindemann finish the yellow brick road leading to Dorothy's house. Refusing to give in, seniors Greg Eckrich, Brian Stier and Teruo Toyama compete in the tug-of-war at the Homecoming pep rally only to lose to the juniors in the end. "We tried to win, but it was like pulling a wall," Brian said. "We just died. It was cheap that we lost to the juniors." Unable to keep his obedient butler image, Cogburn (Andrew Bridgman, sophomore) breaks out into an uncontrollable tirade and reveals his guilt as the murderer in the novice play *Out of Sight, Out of Murder*.



shooting for freedom

Yes glued to the minute hand, Athena Bakris, sophomore, fidgeted impatiently as time ticked by slower than it did any other day.

"It was horrible just waiting for the bell to ring [on Fridays]," Athena said. "You were just waiting for the free time. You knew you didn't have to come to school the next day or wake up."

Whether their weekends began on Thursday night or after the 2:45 p.m. Friday bell, students unearthed ways to enjoy their weekends. However, some underclassmen grumbled about a lack of transportation.

"We hung out at the movies way too often, but there was nothing else to do," Katie Harvey, freshman, said. "Getting rides was tough. It limited us."

With a driver's license, students' travel radius grew. Mike Vrabel, senior, and his friends ventured into Chicago to eat out, catch a show or go clubbing.

On the other hand, some students preferred bargains such as Wendy's 99 cent menu, according to Tom Dwars, junior.

Nicole Miller, senior, went to football and basketball games to cheer on the teams and meet with friends.

Wherever they decided to spend their weekends, students chose the social option that suited them.

At the sound of the bell, relief flooded Athena as she joined the masses of students scrambling towards the doors and the freedom that the weekends promised.

Car crazed

At the Chicago Auto Show, seniors Kyle Bieda and Katie Kooy look at the monster trucks on display.



Friendly competition

In an attempt to beat freshman Colin Tomazin in foosball, freshman Patrick Los relies on his fast reflexes. On a typical weekend, Patrick and his friends caught a movie or just dropped by his friend's houses.



Dance fever

With her hand on junior Amit Shah's shoulder, junior Ashley Velchek dances during "Humprom." "I didn't get to dance often, but I liked to do it," Ashley said. "I usually just went out with my friends and my boyfriend to Borders or the movies."





Targeting free time

After finding a clear shot, Tony Gallagher, sophomore, shoots a game of pool with his friends over the weekend. "We usually just hung out, went bowling, saw movies and played pool," Tony said. "The nights [were the best] because that was when things went on."

cash crunch

While some students enjoy splurging on pricey weekends downtown, others opt not to dent their cache of cash by making economical weekend plans

- \$0 to rent a movie or DVD from the public library
- \$4.15 to take the Southshore downtown from Hammond
- \$5 to cheer on the Boys' Basketball Team to a conference co-championship
- \$6 to see *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* at Showplace16
- \$10 to order a garden salad and a Diet Coke at Applebee's
- \$22 to park at Navy Pier and grab dinner in the Food Court
- \$50 to buy tickets for Blue Man Group in Chicago
- \$120 to see *Riverdance* and eat at the Mongolian Barbecue



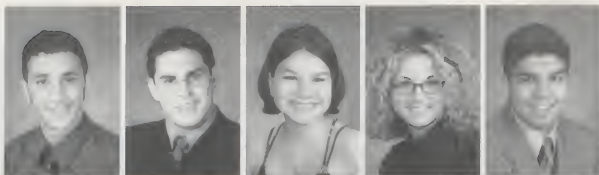
on my honor

While they wait their turns, freshmen Thomas Simmons and Doug Boyer each plot a strategy to conquer the earth in a game of Risk at their weekend Boy Scout outing.

model behavior

To add to the banner at Snowflurry, Monica Aldulescu, senior, signs her name by her handprint. "The kids looked up to high schoolers as role models," Monica said. "You helped ease their way to middle school."

Gadeir Abbane: Cross Country 9-12 (capt. 12); Track 9-12; Speech/Debate 10-12 (capt. 12); Wrestling 9; Band 9-10; Jazz Band 10; Orchestra 10-11; Drama 12; NHS 11-12
Ashraf George Abu-Alla: Football 9-11; Wrestling 9-11; Ping Pong 12; Musical 10
Jessica Acosta: Tennis 9-11; Spanish Club 9-10; American Sign Language Club 12; SADD 12
Monica Aidunescu: Swimming 9-10, 12; Orchestra 9-11; Musical 9-12; Speech/Debate 11; Spanish Club 9-11; NHS 11-12
Anwar Ali



Jessica L. Andrysk: Softball 9-12; Volleyball 10
Nathaniel Jamison Angel
Ginger Anthony: Dance Team 9-10; DECA 10-11
Katharine M. Austgen: Volleyball 9; Golf 10-11; French Club 9-12
Sarah Ashley Baker: Speech/Debate 9-12; Dance Team 10; Project X 11-12; Spanish Club 9-10; Ping Pong 12



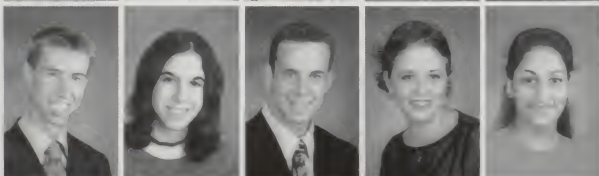
Nick Bakker
John Balicki
Lindsay E. Baranowski: Soccer 9-10; Swimming 9; Track 9; French Club 9-12; Speech, Debate 9-10; Crer 10-12 (Feature Ed. 11; Ads Manager 12); Munster Theatre Company 9-10; Auditorium Staff 10
Andrea Barber: DECA 10
Daniel Ray Barton: Band 9-10; Jazz Band 9-10; German Club 10-11; Golf 9



Marcela Bazzan: Spanish Club 9-10; Art Club 9-10; SADD 9-11; Project X 9-11; CEC 9
Michelle M. Benbenista: Drama 9; Pub Photographer 10
Christina Marie Bernacchi: German Club 9-10; Munster Theatre Company 9-12; Auditorium Staff 9-12 (Production Man. 12); Ensembles 10-12; Thespian 10-12
Brooke Lindsay Berry: Drama 9-11; SADD 11-12; Project X 10-12; DECA 11
Kyle Bieda: Band 9-12; Jazz Band 10-12; Ensembles 11-12; Musical 10-11; Spanish Club 10; NHS 11-12; Swimming 9-12; Orchestra 11



Robert Anthony Bielawski: Cross Country 9-12 (capt. 12); Track 9-12
Hene Blumberg: Musical 9-10; Tennis 11
Nicholas Bokow: Football 12; Wrestling 11-12; Spanish Club 10; Ping Pong 12; Track 12
Hillean Nicole Bonessa: German Club 9; Auditorium Staff 11
Sangeeta Bookseller: Art Club 11-12; Speech/Debate 11-12; SADD 12; Project X 11-12



Alexis Nicole Boyan: Speech, Debate 9-10; German Club 11-12; DECA 11-12
Joshua R. Bradish: Soccer 10-12 (capt. 12); Band 9; Wrestling 9; NHS 11-12; Spanish Club 10-11
Elizabeth Bradley: DECA 10; Munster Theatre Company 10-12; Thespian 11-12; Auditorium Staff 10-12 (Sound Dir. 10)
Tara R. Brennan: Spanish Club 9; SADD 11-11; Project X 10-11; Track 9-10
Ed Braganza: Football 9; Speech/Debate 9-10



comfort zone

Whether plastering walls with celebrity posters or keeping rooms spotlessly clean, SENIORS home turf seniors create their personal paradise

With Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" blasting, Jordan Richardson, senior, sang along while she dusted her room as part of her regular Saturday morning routine.

"My room was immaculate," Jordan said. "I couldn't do anything unless it was clean. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't study. Cleaning was therapeutic. I put on a good song; and hey man, I was happy."

One of several seniors who would miss her personalized room in college, Jordan placed pictures and mementos she collected over the years all over her room. Luckily, Jordan would room with her friend Evy Watterson, senior, at Valparaiso University the following year. The tidy roommates planned to make the room colorful to stay focused and in a brighter mood.

Not all seniors would miss their room at home, though. For Jeff French, senior, a change would provide a break from 13 years of monotony in design.

"I didn't think I would miss my room," Jeff said. "The only thing I did in it was sleep. The dorms weren't the best

living conditions, but I was looking forward to the change."

Expressing interests through their rooms, seniors chose a theme to spice up their living quarters. Joe Rogan, senior, created an island look for his room, reflecting his interest in surfing and Bob Marley's reggae music.

"I was into paradise and freedom," Joe said. "I liked to be at ease. Being in my room made me happy."

Joe mounted a surfboard against the wall but did not plan on taking it to college. To personalize his dorm room, he'd hang posters.

Some seniors knew they might encounter problems with leaving their own rooms. Donna

Prole, senior, would miss her king size bed she'd have to trade for a "tiny, hard twin size." She also realized she might be on a different schedule than her roommate, which could cause interferences.

While some would miss their personalized rooms and others would look forward to change, some like Jordan lucked out with having a tidy friend to look forward to cleaning up with.

spring cleaning

You know that it's time to clean your bedroom when...

- It takes 30 minutes to get ready for bed, but you spend 25 of them clearing off the bed

- When in need of a midnight snack, you can always tumble out of bed and find one on the floor

- You have not bothered closing the shades in seven months because there is no physical way for you to make your way to them

star shrine

Surrounded by pictures of her favorite celebrities, Lisa Newcomb, senior, listens to music on her makeshift bed. "I took the mattress off since the bed took up room I wanted for more posters," Lisa said.



Nicholas Bulazik: Wrestling 9-12, Football 9-10; Track 12; Band 9-12; Academic Team 9-12; NHS 11-12; German Club 9-12; National Merit Commended Student 12; Hoosier Boys State 12

Jacqueline Burkart
Kathleen Elizabeth Caine: Spanish Club 9-10; SADD 10; Project X 10; Orchestra 9-11; Auditorium Staff 10-11; Drama 10; Swimming 9

Marcos Campos: Soccer 9-10
Simone C. Castaneda: Project X 11-12; Art Club 12; Ping Pong 12; DECA 11, Tennis 10; Softball 9

Adam Castor: Football 10-11; Track 9-12 (capt. 12)

Daniel Chambers: Basketball 9; Golf 10-12
Steven Chovanec: Swimming 9-12; Golf 9
Thomas J. Clark: Soccer 9-12; Golf 9-10; Basketball 9-11; Track 12; Ping-Pong 12; DECA 11-12

F. Clause: Cheerleading 9-11 (capt. 9-10); Softball 9; Project X 11; American Sign Language Club 12 (pres. 12); Track 12

behind the seams

Whether forking over big bucks for designer brands or comfortable clothes, seniors reveal motivation behind how they define their style.

SENIORS home turf

As she stepped into Express at Southlake Mall, Lisa McCloud, senior, finally discovered the exact style of jeans she had searched for the whole day—light blue and frayed around the top and the pockets.

Then, she glanced at the price tag: \$89. Despite the steep price, Lisa decided she had to have the pants.

"I mostly bought them because it was my parents' money," Lisa McCloud said. "Splurging like that didn't happen often, but [the jeans] were so cute."

While some seniors couldn't resist the urge to splurge, others sought comfort over expensive fashion statements.

"By the time you got to senior year, you wore the first thing you found in the morning or whatever made you happy," Yasemin Zeytinoglu, senior, said.

As their final year of school rolled around, seniors also unearthed a new

By the time you got to senior year, you wore the first thing you found in the morning or whatever made you happy.

Yasemin Zeytinoglu, senior

style, according to Yasemin. At the beginning of high school, seniors had focused far more of their attention on dressing to impress everyone else, according to Tommy Clark, senior.

"Freshman year I always tried to dress up," Lisa said. "It was all about the skirts and tall boots; it was the same with sophomore year. It was all about Abercrombie and Fitch junior year. This year, it was all about the jeans and sweatshirts. I just didn't care what I looked like because it was my last year."

Even though some students scoured thrift stores and fabric stores for one-of-a-kind outfits, others stuck to a specific name brand. Some felt that clothing styles drew the lines between interests and groups of friends, but others believed that a person's clothing simply reflected their individuality.

"If you were comfortable with who you were, you didn't have to wear fancy clothes," James Pavisian, senior, said. "I really didn't care about what other people did. I just did my own thing."

Dressing alike didn't prevent seniors from expressing their own personalities. "Though my friends and I dressed similarly, we each added our own individual flair," Yasemin said.

After dishing out the \$89, Lisa returned home satisfied with costly yet perfect purchase knowing that it suited her very selective taste in clothing.

stitch in time

1 Go to Jo-Ann Fabrics, and buy three yards of fabric, a pattern and thread for \$11.50

2 Trace and cut out pattern for pants with pencil and scissors (30 minutes)



Rachel Seyiol, senior

3 Using a sewing machine, sew seams together and put elastic into pants (one hour)



Leonardo Phillip Coduti: Jazz Band 9, 11-12;
Band 9, 11-12; Art Club 11-12; NHS 11-12
George Colakovic: Basketball 9-12; Musical
10, 12; Ping Pong 12
Jessica Ann Collinsworth: Volleyball 9-10;
Softball 9-10; Student Govt. 9-10
Jeff Cook: Cross Country 9-10, 12
Katy Creagh: Art Club 10-12 (sec. 12); French
Club 9-12; NHS 11-12; SADD 9-10



Kellie Marie Creighton: Band 9-12
Elizabeth Christine Criswell: German Club
9; Project X 9
Brian Richard Curtis
Sambodhi Das: Spanish Club 9, 12; French
Club 9-10, 12; German Club 10, 12; SADD 10;
Project X 11-12; Academic Team 12;
Aquarium Club 12 (vice pres. 12); American
Sign Language Club 12;
David Dausch



Stephanie Marie Davis: Basketball 9; Track 9-10

Keith Louis Dell'Aquila: Cross Country 9; Band 9-10; Crier (Sports Ed. 11; Ed.-in-chief 12); Track 10-12

Sievan Michal Desancie: Spanish Club 10; Golf 9-10, 11; Ping-Pong 12

Andrew DeYoung: Football 9-11; Spanish Club 9-11; NHS 11-12

Christina DiCostanzo: Volleyball 9-12; Basketball 9-12; Softball 9-10; NHS 11-12; American Sign Language Club 12

Megan T. Dines

Anthony M. Doesburg: Football 9-12 (capt. 12, All State 11-12); Track 9-12 (capt. 11-12); Band 9-10; Spanish Club 10; German Club 11; Project X 12; Ping-Pong 12

Jacqueline Doescher
Eric Drabenstot: Orchestra 10-12; French Club 9-10

Matthew J. Drapac: Speech/Debate 9

Dave Dziubczynski: Football 9-12; Golf 9; Wrestling 9-12

Gregory Eckrich: Track 9-12; Football 9-11; Basketball 9; American Sign Language Club 12; Ping Pong 12

Lauren Eidam: Soccer 9-12; Tennis 9-12; Project X 11; NHS 11-12

Elisse A. Elias: German Club 9; Tennis 10; SADD 11; American Sign Language Club 12; CEC 9

Jake Engelbrecht

Kristen Evans: Musical 9-12

Ann Rachel Fabert: Ensembles 10-12

Raymond Fandi: Band 9-12; Jazz Band 9-11

Bradley Thomas Farnsley: Swimming 9-12; Band 9-10; Track 12

Jenny Anne Fell: Orchestra 9-11; Musical 10-12; German Club 9-12; NHS 11-12; Project X 10-11; SADD 9-10

Rachel Franklin: Art Club 9-10; Auditorium Staff 9-10; French Club 9-12; Drama Club 9-10; Speech/Debate 9-11

Joseph B. Fray: Jazz Band 9-11; Band 9-10; German Club 9-12 (pres. 11); NHS 11-12; Bowling Club 10-12; Orchestra 10-11

Academic Team 11; Musical 11

Jeff French: Tennis 9-12 (All State 9-12); NHS 11-12; Speech/Debate 9

Laura Gabrys: Soccer 10-11; Track 10-11; Spanish Club 9-10

Jordan Leigh Maxwell Ghezzi: Track 12

Elliott Gibbs: Baseball 9-12; Basketball 9; French Club 11-12

Hillary Lynn Gibbs: Auditorium Staff 9-10; Drama 9-10

Megan Gleason

Sharyn Goldyn: Crier 11-12 (News Ed. 11, Copy Ed. 12); Musical 9-10, 12; Orchestra 9-10

Grant Golonka: Ping Pong 12

Elizabeth Ann Grady: Softball 9; Band 9-10;
SADD 10; German Club 9-11
Candice Jol Hee Grant: *Paragon* 11-12 (Clubs
and People Ed. 11; Managing Ed. 12); NHS
11-12; Quill and Scroll 11-12; French Club 9-
10; 12; Project X 9-12 (Planning Comm. 12);
Speech/Debate 9-11
Matt Frank Grantner
Aaron Gray
Rebecca Gribble: Cheerleading 9-12 (capt. 9,
11-12); Homecoming Court 12



Holly Grunewald: Student Govt. 10-11;
Swimming 9-10; SADD 11-12; Project X 11-
12; German Club 11-12; DECA 12;
Homecoming Queen 12
Matt Guanzon: Tennis 9-12; Golf 9-10;
Spanish Club 10-12; French Club 9-12;
Academic Team 10-12; SADD 11; Speech/
Debate 9-11; Ping Pong 12
Gayle Guerra: Track 9; Spanish Club 9-11;
SADD 10-11; Drama 9-10
Christina Elena Guzik: Swimming 9-12
(capt. 12); CEC 11-12 (sec. 11); Student Govt.
9-10; NHS 11-12; Musical 9; Project X 12
David Ha



David Hansen: Football 9-11; Basketball 9;
Track 10-12; SADD 9, 12; DECA 12; Spanish
Club 9-10; Ping Pong 12; German Club 11-12;
French Club 12; Project X 12
Ed Harrington
Shannon Marie Harvey: Softball 9; Tennis
10-12; Spanish Club 9; Project X 9-10, 12;
SADD 9-10; DECA 10; Art Club 9
Kyle Hayes: Diving 9, 11; Track 9; Wrestling
9
Jenine Marie Herr: French Club 9



Becky Herron: Art Club 9-10; Drama 10;
SADD 10; Project X 10-11
Allen D. Hill: Football 9-12 (capt. 12);
Basketball 9-10; Track 11-12; Ping Pong 12;
Spanish Club 9-10; Wrestling 11
Brian R. Hmurovich
Wendy Hoffman
Jayne Ellen Holly: Musical 9-12; NHS 11-12;
Ensembles 10-12; Jazz Band 9-10



Tim J. Hunt: Wrestling 9-12 (capt. 12); CEC 9
(treas. 9)
James Hus: German Club 9-10; Jazz Band 9-
11
Samantha J. Jackman
Adam C. Jadryew: Football 9-12
Joseph N. Jaksich: Football 9-12; Baseball 9-
12; Spanish Club 12; Ping Pong 12



Ashley V. Jasevicius: Softball 9-11; Volleyball
9; Basketball 9-10; Jazz Band 9-10
Laura Joens
Ellen Kamieniecki
David B. Kaplan: Football 9; Spanish Club
10; DECA 11-12
Nickita Karalis: Golf 9-10, 12





Kurt C. Keil: Baseball 9-12; Basketball 9-12; DECA 9-10; Spanish Club 9; Drama 9; Speech / Debate 9
 Kenneth Keilman
 Sarah Kelley: Spanish Club 9; Drama 10; Auditorium Staff 9-11
 Kimberly Kendall: Project X 9-11, Spanish Club 10
 Colin Kern: Drama Club 9-10; Spanish Club 10-12; Speech / Debate 9-12

Nicholas Spiros Kikolas: Football 9-12; German Club 10-12 (sec. 11)
 Jonathan Kocsis: Soccer 9-11
 Dan Kohnen: Tennis 10-12; Basketball 10; French Club 11; NI IS 11-12
 Erin K. Kolb: Student Govt. 9; Volleyball 9-10; CEC 10-12; Basketball 9-12; Softball 9-12; DECA 11
 Olivia Kathleen Kompier: Ensembles 9-11; Musical 9-11

the write inspiration



An aspiring writer who had poetry published at age 16, senior Sharyn Goldyn reveals her creative side.

Q. Why did you start writing?
A. It all started in third grade. I'd finish an RL Stine book, immediately sit down with a green Crayola marker and sketch out cheesy horror stories.

Q. What do you like most about it?
A. To be a writer, you can't censor your thoughts; you have to write as you see things. I like that honesty.

Q. How does writing provide a release from your daily life?
A. Writing is the best way to capture what I'm feeling. You have to live in order to write. When something good or bad happens, I welcome it because I know it will fit nicely into a story.

think outside the box

From fine arts to body art, seniors explore spectrum of outlets beyond the ordinary and let creativity flower

SENIORS home turf

Silver armor covered senior Jill Bonessa's middle finger as her hand trailed a pencil along the paper. Following her smooth strokes, the delicate wing of a fairy began to appear. Hand adorned with a ring fashioned out of medieval-style metal, Jill worked diligently in a green suede book decorated with colorful stickers and magazine clippings. Inside her journal she collected original poetry and drawings, pictures of friends, ticket stubs and other pieces of her life.

"I'd been carrying a journal with me since seventh or eighth grade," Jill said. "It was kind of an escape from the regular world. If I saw something I liked, I drew it. I especially liked drawing fairies and fantasy-type things."

While Jill harnessed her creativity into a book, Julie Sufana, senior, drove to Act One Studios in Chicago every Wednesday for a three-hour acting class. Julie viewed acting as an emotional outlet.

"Acting was an extension of yourself," Julie said. "It wasn't about becoming somebody else. It was putting yourself into the mindset of the character."

[My journal] was kind of an escape from the regular world. If I saw something I liked, I drew it.

Jill Bonessa, senior

Although students such as Julie enjoyed vocal expression, Mike Rosen, senior, carried his individuality with him in a quieter form. He received a tattoo of the Star of David on his left arm.

Even though Mike didn't consider himself the most devout Jew by practice, he emphasized his personal faith in God.

"I didn't practice so much in the sense of going to the temple every week," Mike

said. "But it was my relationship with God that was important to me. The fact that my tattoo could never be removed made it a permanent marking of my religion."

Through a lasting mark, Mike displayed his religious beliefs for

everyone to see. Although not as permanent as ink, Jill's jewelry also revealed personality. Desiring to stand out from the crowd, Jill particularly liked her armor ring because she could hardly find anyone with the same one.

To further express her singularity, Jill brought a journal with her almost everywhere she went. As she finished shading in her fairy's wing, Jill rubbed subtle traces of creativity into her work.

Katie Lynn Kooy: Band 10-12
 Lisa Marie Koscielski: Swimming 9-12
 Bryan Kowalczyk: Golf 10-12
 Afton Kurth: Project X 11; SADD 11
 Kevin Kutansky: Basketball 9-11; Football 9-11; Baseball 9-12; DECA 12

Zachary Lambert: Track 9; Wrestling 10-11; Football 9-12; German Club 10-12; Ping Pong 12; French Club 12
 Alice S. Lanman: French Club 11-12 (co-pres.); Volleyball 9; Pub photographer 12
 Dan Larson: Speech/Debate 9; Band 9-10; Track 11-12; French Club 12
 Andrew J. Lautz: Golf 9; Tennis 9; Band 9-10; Jazz Band 9-11; NHS 11-12; German Club 12
 Jamie Lee: American Sign Language Club 12



revamping their vehicles

While some students rearrange lifestyles and work to afford lavish cars, others choose instead to personalize theirs with less expensive interior decorations

SENIORS home turf

As soon as he received a '91 Toyota Celica for his 16th birthday, Brian Stier, senior, decided to make the car his own. One year and \$1,000 later, his car sported silver rims, window tints, a "straight pipe," fog lights, underbody neon green lights and a new sound system.

To satisfy his avid interest in cars, Brian worked at the Cloister in the Woods banquet hall to cover the expenses of the add-ons to his Celica.

While some seniors like Brian dished out thousands of dollars to "soup up" their cars, others opted to personalize theirs with less costly items. During a vacation in Spain, Sam Watanapongse, senior, purchased a small ceramic bowl

for the dashboard in her '00 Sebring convertible. In addition to the bowl, she placed an American flag on her car's antenna and dangled a dolphin ornament from the rearview mirror.

"I spent a lot of time in my car; so I liked having things to make it mine—to be more homely for me," Sam said.

Chuck Mamich, senior, not only personalized his '72 Camaro but even built parts of it with his own hands.

"I rebuilt and replaced anything in the car that was mechanical," Chuck said. "It took more time than you would think."

Just like Brian, Chuck saved up to pay for his car and all its components. He delivered newspapers and also worked maintenance at a baseball field during

the summer to pay for the \$5,000 car and the parts that he personally installed.

"I drove the car a little, but it wasn't fun since it wasn't finished," Chuck said.

Although some seniors went out of their way to afford all the extras, others furnished their cars' interiors with inexpensive items to feel more at home. From hanging ornaments on rearview mirrors to hooking up advanced stereo systems, students chose a variety of outlets to make their cars unique.

quick fix

To adjust his '78 Mercury Cougar XR7 for the upcoming cold weather, Chris Pykosz, senior, works on the carburetor. "[The Cougar] was my parents' car," Chris said. "It was sitting in the garage for 6 years with parts missing, and I got it running again so that I could use it."

custom cars

What part of your car told the most about you?

"I had a 'Fear This' bumper sticker that I put on the back of my minivan. That showed I had a sense of humor because it was on the back of this really old minivan."

Robbie Bielawski, senior

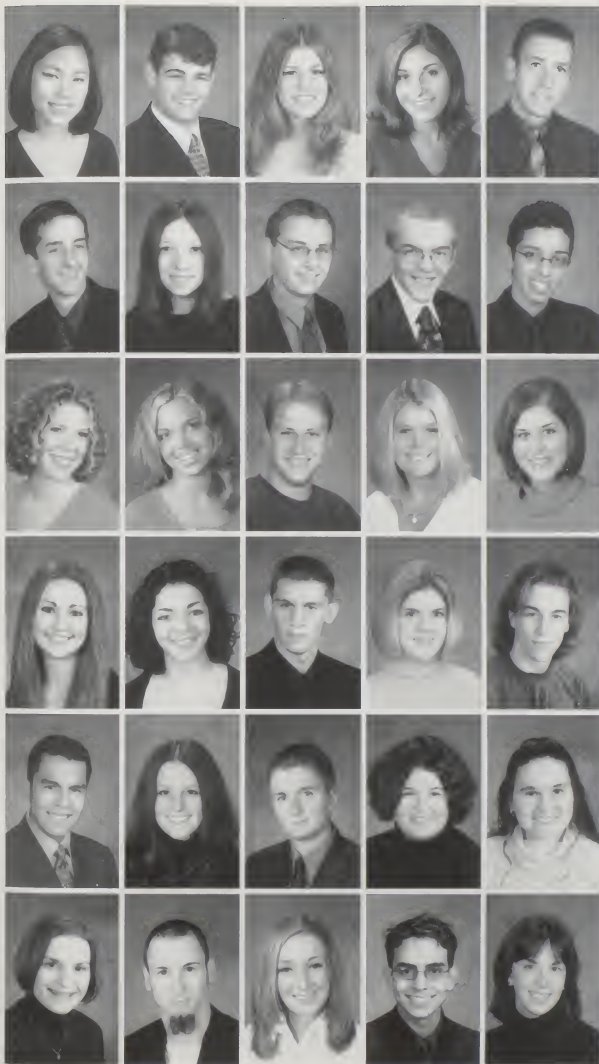
"The music in my car was personal because I always listened to classic rock or Phish or Dave Matthews [Band]. It described my style of clothing and how I acted—mellow."

Kyle Hayes, senior

"I liked to watch my money, and it was reflected in my car because I bought it for \$200. There were holes in the front seat so I had to weld sheet metal on top to keep the water from coming through when it rained."

David Kaplan, senior





Jennifer Yearan Lee: *Paragon* 11-12 (Sports Ed. 11, Copy Ed. 12); Golf 9-12 (co-capt. 12); Ensembles 11-12; Musical 9-11; Project X 11-12 (Planning Comm. 12); Speech 9-12; CEC 9, 11; Student Govt. 10, 12; Dance Team 9-10; NHS 11-12; National Merit Finalist 12

Thomas W. Lee: Speech 11; German Club 11; Football 9-12 (co-capt. 12, All Conference 12)

Michelle Aileen Leverenz
Karen Georgann Lindemann: Volleyball 9-10; Basketball 9-11; Speech/Debate 9-10; Track 9-12; NHS 11-12 (pres. 12); Student Govt. 9-12 (sec. 12); Homecoming Court 12

Josh Lipton: Baseball 9; Track 10; Soccer 9-12

Michael J. Liszka: Band 9-10; Jazz Band 9-11; Academic Team 11-12; Pub photographer 11; Orchestra 10-11; CEC 9-10; German Club 10-12; NHS 11-12

Hannah Lodge: Band 9-10; Soccer 10; Tennis 11

David J. Los: DECA 10-12 (treas. 11); Pub photographer 11-12

Ronald Lukomski
Jason Maldonado: Speech/Debate 9-12; Drama 11-12

Laura Kimberly Mann: Spanish Club 10-11; German Club 10-11; SADD 11; Project X 11

Amanda C. Manoski: Volleyball 9; Dance Team 10-12; Tennis 9-12; Project X 11-12; Art Club 11-12; Spanish Club 11; NHS 11-12

Dave J. Marciniak
Jillian Marie Martin: Basketball 9-12; Volleyball 9-12; Softball 9-11; Student Govt. 11; DECA 12; American Sign Language Club 12 (vice pres. 12); NHS 11-12

Megan Maruszczak

Margaret Mask: Dance Team 9-10

Talia Ann Matury-Vacaro: Volleyball 9-12; Softball 9-12; DECA 11; Orchestra 11-12; Band 9-10

Louis Mazza: Football 9-12; Baseball 9; Basketball 9; Track 10

Lisa Marie McCloud
Jon McCullough: *Crier* (Circulation Man. 11, Photographic Coord. and Business Man. 12)

Justin Medrano: Project X 12

Angela Marie Meyers: Soccer 9-12 (capt. 12); Basketball 9; CEC 10-12; Tennis 10

Matthew Mikels: Swimming 9-12; NHS 11-12; Band 9

Nicole Miller: DECA 10-11; SADD 10-12; Project X 11-12; Spanish Club 10

Krystle E. Montella

Emily Montgomery: Softball 9; Golf 9-12 (capt. 12); Spanish Club 9-12 (sec. 10, 11; pres. 12); NHS 11-12

Joel Moosmiller: Track 9, 12; Auditorium Staff 10-12; Drama 10-12; Thespian 11-12; Musical 10-12

Lauren M. Morelli: Cheerleading 9-10; Softball 9; DECA 12; Art Club 12

Waheed Nassimi: Basketball 10; French Club 10, 12; Track 10-12; Project X 10-12; Diving 11; CEC 11; Student Govt. 12 (vice pres. 12)

Lisa Marie Newcomb: Basketball 9; DECA 11-12; Project X 10; American Sign Language Club 12; Spanish Club 9-10

Corey Newman
Matthew Nierengarten
Kristi Nishimura: Volleyball 9; Softball 9-12
Blake Noland
Jonathan Noworyta: Art Club 10; Baseball
10-12; Spanish Club 11-12; Project X 12;
SADD 12; German Club 12; Ping Pong 12

Bradley A. Nykiel: Football 9-12 (capt. 12;
All Conference 11-12; All State 11-12);
Baseball 9-12; Spanish Club 9-10; French
Club 11

Katherine O'Block: Basketball 9; Orchestra
9-10; DECA 11; Track 9-11
Paul Obszanski: Baseball 9-12; Wrestling 12
Medi Ogagh: Speech/Debate 9-11; Crier (In
Focus Ed. 11); Project X 9-11; SADD 11;
Tokunboh James Olaosebikan: Football 9-10
Track 9-12; French Club 9-12 (pres. 12);
Student Govt. 12; Project X 11-12; Ping Pong
12

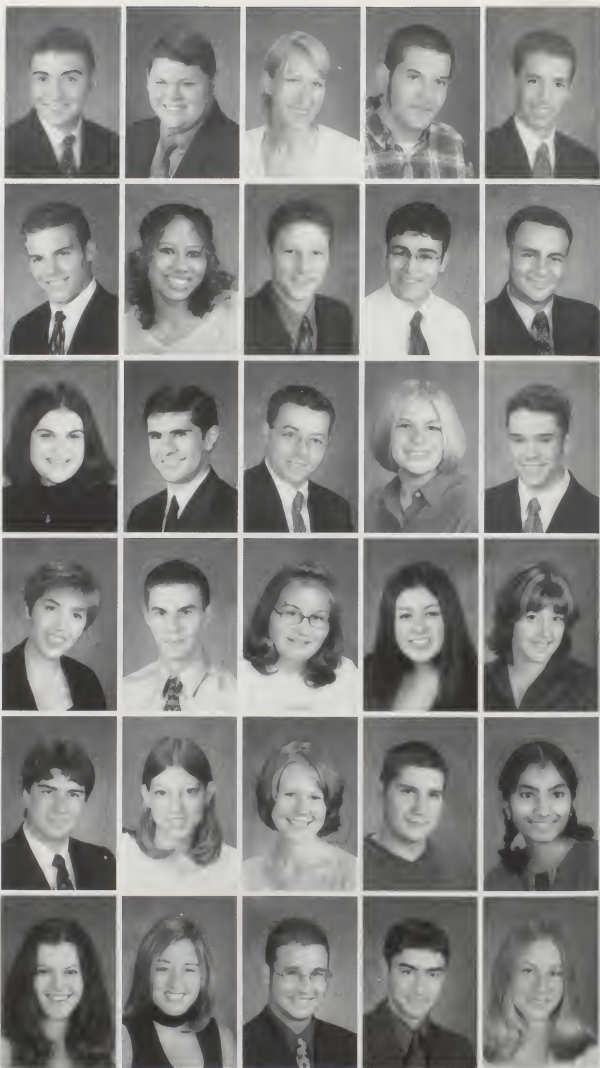
Liz Olley
Bilal Onery: Wrestling 9-10; Football 10-11;
Speech/Debate 11-12; NHS 11-12
Stephen Paarlberg: Golf 9-12
Kathryn Paliga: Golf 9-12 (capt. 12);
Ensembles 12
Gojko Pamucar: DECA 11-12; Track 12;
French Club 9

Sarah Papin: Munster Theatre Company 10-12;
Auditorium Staff 10-12; Thespians 11-12;
German Club 9-12; Drama 10-12; Musical 11-12

Steve Paradzinski: Baseball 9-12
Michelle L. Peiguss: Tennis 9-11; French
Club 9, 12; American Sign Language Club 12
Gianina Pelagalli: Dance Team 9-10; Softball
9-10; DECA 11
Rosey Petrone

Sean Pikosz: Band 9-12; Golf 9; Swimming 9
Jennifer Nicole Pizzuto: American Sign
Language Club 12
Jill Powley: Band 9-11
Jeremy Zbigniew Pozdzal
Ambika Prasad

Donna Prole: Tennis 9; French Club 10-12
Lea Maxine Pupillo: Volleyball 9-10;
Speech/Debate 10; Track 9-12 (capt. 12);
Ensembles 11
Christopher J. Pykosz: Band 9-12; SADD 9-10
Doug Quasny: Basketball 9-10; Track 11-12;
Football 12
Meghan N. Ralich: Track 9; DECA 11





bag of tricks

Soaking up pride on senior nights or surprising that special someone on his birthday, students seek out celebrations

SENIORS home turf

Frantically brainstorming a Valentine's Day plan, Angie Meyers, senior, came up short. With only three days left, she turned to a stack of photos sitting off to the side from a trip to Chicago.

Determined to do something unique, Angie snatched up the photos and sprinted to Target. Scanning each of them, she rushed home with a picture frame and poster board in hand.

"When you showed how much effort you put into something like that, they appreciated it because it made them feel special," Angie said. "I knew it was something he [Justin Gulotta, junior] was going to hold on to. You weren't going to marry that person; but when you had the chance, you had to try your best to make them feel special."

With surprises from holidays to birthdays, celebrations dotted student life both in and out of school. To mark the end of their school career in sports, Senior Nights and team parties transformed the regular season into something more, according to Talia Matry-Vacaro, senior.

"For Senior Night [the team] decorated the locker room with a lot of spirit and they got us stuff for college and other

small gifts," Talia said. "It was just something really unique to close out my last four years of volleyball."

While teams showed support for seniors, others decided to go beyond the call of duty for birthdays. Transforming each one into an all-night celebration, Ray Fandl, senior, partied with a large group to make the evening memorable.

"With a big group of your friends around, you were guaranteed a good time," Ray said. "It didn't matter what you got—it was just being around the people you knew."

With a big group of your friends around, you were guaranteed a good time. It didn't matter what you got—it was just being around the people you knew."

Ray Fandl, senior

Some students banked on planned events to escape school-day monotony. When February passed without Winter Homecoming, Jordan Ghezzi, senior, noticed the gap in the year.

"It was cool going through all the fun games," Jordan said. "It was also exciting to see who was the Homecoming King. It was weird that they got rid of [Winter Homecoming]."

Whether toting balloons through the halls or plastering birthday flyers throughout the school, seniors opted to celebrate events at every turn. As Angie carefully placed the glass on top of her creation, she took a step back to admire her work, knowing her surprise would prove worth the time it took to make.

the steps to surprise

Packed in a room while waiting to surprise Adam Wesolowski, Roger Shieh and Tedi Vlahu, seniors, and Brian Ranade and Sachin Doshi, '01, chat before Megan Schutz, senior, leads Adam upstairs to the room full of people. "Up until that day, I didn't know what was going on," Adam said. "But when I saw all the cars in the cul-de-sac, I knew something was up. Leading me up to a dark room tipped me off. I still had a good time though. It was the first real party I'd had in a while."



Erica Rangel: Orchestra 9-12; Musical 9-12; Softball 9; Diving 10-12; NHS 11-12
Ariana Patrice Rebecs: Swimming 9-10; German Club 10; NHS 11-12
Jordan Ashlee Richardson: Band 9-12; Orchestra 10-12; Spanish Club 9-10; Project X 9-12; Thespian 12; Ensembles 9-12; SADD 9-11; Speech/Debate 9-11
Marissa L. Riechers: Basketball 9; Softball 9-10; Spanish Club 10; Track 12; Band 9-10
Joseph O. Rogan: Soccer 9-12; Track 9; German Club 9-10; American Sign Language Club 12; Student Govt. 10-11; CEC 12; SADD 12; Ping Pong 12

dishing out rules

Whether fabricating excuses for missing curfew or slipping in just before the clock strikes midnight, seniors attempt to avoid the consequences of breaking the rules

SENIORS home turf

Sneaking in 15 minutes after his midnight curfew, Jon Noworyta, senior, scoped out the living room to ensure no one had caught him walking in late. Relieved to see his mom asleep on the couch, Jon tiptoed up to bed.

"I would walk in and see my mom sleeping on the couch and just go to bed," Jon said. "But the next morning my mom would catch me in my lie and tell me that she was awake the whole time."

Disobedient seniors had to face their parents and receive the punishment. Other seniors, however, such as Karen Lindemann, senior, never neglected her curfew for fear of the repercussions of her actions.

"Even though I hated being the first to come home because of my curfew," Karen said. "I was too scared to break curfew because I didn't want any of my privileges to be taken away."

The thought of bearing consequences prevented Karen from breaking rules.

"I understood why [my parents] were strict, but they were too extreme, especially because I didn't do anything wrong," Karen said. "I usually followed

rules, so I should have gotten rewarded by having less rules."

Some seniors never had to deal with the problems of strict parents.

"Our relationship was based on trust," Jessie Wilks, senior, said. "I never did anything to harm that since I respected my parents."

Police took it into their own hands to institute a 11 p.m. week-day curfew and 1 a.m. weekend town curfew even if parents did not.

"When I was coming home from work, it was a nuisance and annoying that I got pulled over for only that violation," Dave Los, senior, said.

At the end of their high school years, a handful of seniors longed for the freedom that college would bring.

"I was looking forward to showing [my parents] that I could do things on my own," Michelle Peiguss, senior, said.

The next morning Jon's mom waited anxiously to hear what time her son had returned the previous night. John played innocent at first, but his mom saw right through his lie and immediately grounded him for the next weekend.



bored stiff

Feet propped up, Katy Creagh, senior, leans through a *Teen People* magazine, attempting to fight boredom. With a midnight curfew, Katy had to invent creative ways to pass her time.



spotless image

Emptying out the dishwasher, Steve Garcia, junior, helps his cousin Jason Maldonado, senior, do the dishes. "We had to do our chores before we could go out on the weekends," Jason said. "It taught us responsibility—work before play."

While enduring their last years at home, seniors share some of the more unusual parental rules.

1. You cannot fall asleep doing your homework with the lights on.
2. You must ride in the back seat of the car to avoid death by airbags in the case of an accident.
3. You must drink at least four full glasses of milk a day.
4. You may not ride in cars driven by teenagers or drive others.
5. You cannot go to any sleepovers if we don't know the family.
6. You must eat a piece of fruit every morning before school.

Michael N. Rosen: Baseball 9-12 (capt. 11-12); Football 11; Basketball 9-10; Orchestra 9; Spanish Club 9-11
Jodi Eve Rosenthal: Speech/Debate 9; Drama 9-12 (pres. 12); Thespians 10-12; Ensembles 10-11; Musical 9-12; DECA 11-12
Tim Roy
Desiree Royal: Soccer 9-10; Swimming 9-10
Daniel Rucinski: Golf 9; Ping Pong 12; Soccer 12





Deepam Rusia: Spanish Club 9-10; Drama 10; Tennis 9-12; Speech/Debate 9-12 (corresponding sec. 12); Academic Team 10-12; NHS 11-12; Principal's Advisory Team 12; Video Club 11
Philip M. Sajin: Basketball 9; Track 11-12; Ping Pong 12
Megan A. Schutz: Swimming 9-11; NHS 11-12; Academic Team 10
Mark Sellers: DECA 12
Rachel Sepiol: Tennis 9-12; Art Club 10-12; Mascot 11-12

Lindsey M. Serna: Soccer 9-12 (capt. 12); Project X 11; SADD 11; NHS 11-12; CEC 9-11
Farah Sheriff: Debate 9-12; Project X 9-12 (Planning Comm. 12); Student Govt. 9-10, 12 (pres. 12); CEC 11 (pres.); NHS 11-12 (treas. 12); Paragon 11-12 (Design I.d. 12); National Merit Finalist 12; Homecoming Court 12
Roger K. Shieh: Academic Team 10-12 (pres. 12); Tennis 10-12; NHS 11-12; Spanish Club 10-11; Student Govt. 12; Video Club 12
Jeni Lynn Shiker: Dance Team 9-10; Track 9-10, 12; Cross Country 9-12 (capt. 12); SADD 12; CEC 10-11; Homecoming Court 12
Drake Sikich
Jonathan M. Silverman: DECA 12; German Club 11
Gabriel Sivaja: Ping Pong 12
Adam T. Slaboski: Track 11-12; Speech 12; Video Club 12
Steven Slater: Art Club 9
Lauren K. Smith: Swimming 9-10; American Sign Language Club 12

Lisa Ann Smith: German Club 9-10; Project X 9; SADD 9-10
Stephanie L. Smith: Volleyball 9-12 (capt. 12); Tennis 9-10; Spanish Club 9-10; Project X 11-12
Gregg Sorrels
Jason Spasoff
Julie Kristen Spear: Volleyball 9; Basketball 9; Softball 9-12; Spanish Club 9-10; DECA 11

Angela Lynn Speziale: Volleyball 9-12; French Club 9-12
Amanda Y. Spivey: Dance Team 9-12 (capt. 12); Tennis 9-10; Student Govt. 10; CTC 11-12; Art Club 10; Speech/Debate 10; NHS 11-12 (sec. 12)
Karl W. Spork: Soccer 9-11; Wrestling 10; Golf 9; German Club 9-12 (treas. 11, pres. 12)
Adam Spungen: Tennis 9-10; DECA 12
Katy Stine: Cross Country 9-12 (capt. 10-12); Track 9-12 (capt. 10-12); Dance Team 9-10; Student Govt. 9; CEC 10-12 (vice pres. 10, 11); NHS 11-12 (vice pres. 12); Project X 12; Hoosier Girls State 11; German Club 9, 11
Brian Alan Stier: Basketball 9-12; Baseball 9-10; Ping Pong 12; Spanish Club 9-10
Ilya Stetsovsky
Kyle Strandberg
Dan Strzempka: Baseball 9-12
Julie Lynn Sufana: Dance Team 9-11; Munster Theatre Company 9-12; Thespians 10-12; NHS 11-12; Project X 11, 12 (Planning Comm. 12); Spanish Club 11-12; French Club 11; Speech/Debate 10; SADD 11-12; Band 9

Colleen Elizabeth Summers: Munster Theatre Company 9-12; Thespian 11-12; NHS 11-12; Spanish Club 9-11; French Club 9-11; Academic Team 10-11; Ensembles 9-11; Speech 9-10; Musical 9-12, CEC 10, 12; Mark Susoreny: Track 9-12 (capt. 12); Diving 11-12 (capt. 12); SADD 12

Jason Michael Szanyi: *Paragon* 11-12 (Design Ed. 11, Editor-in-chief 12); Quill & Scroll 11-12; Band 9-10; Jazz Band 9-11; Orchestra 10-11; NHS 11-12; French Club 10-12; Speech 12; Adam Michael Tepper: Tennis 9-12; Track 9-11; Spanish Club 9-11; CEC 10-12 (treas. 10, 12); Sarah Theile

Katie Thompson: Volleyball 9-12; Track 9-12; Student Govt. 9-12; American Sign Language Club 12; NHS 11-12; Spanish Club 11-12; Teruo Toyama: Soccer 9-12; NHS 11-12; DECA 11-12; Basketball 9; American Sign Language Club 12; Ryan Trojanski; Filiz Lynn Turan: Cheerleading 9-10; German Club 9; Spanish Club 10; Tennis 10; Nicole Jean Vancura: Colorguard 9; DECA 11-12

Rachel Lee Vanderhei: French Club 9-10; Auditorium Staff 9; Jillian Vega: Cross Country 9-12 (capt. 12); Track 9-10-12; Drama Club 9-12; Tedi Sascho Vlahu: Tennis 9-12; Video Club 9-12; Academic Team 10-12 (vice pres. 12); NHS 11-12; Musical 9-10; Orchestra 9-12; Michael A. Vrabel: Football 9-11; Basketball 9-10; Baseball 9-10; Track 11; NHS 11-12; Kevin J. Wadycki: Band 9-12

Paige Wagner: Cheerleading 9-12 (capt. 9-10, 12); NHS 11-12; Student Govt. 11-12; French Club 9-12 (vice pres. 12); Project X 10-12; *Crier* (Front Ed. 11); Homecoming Court 12; Adam James Wallace: NHS 11-12; SADD 9-10; Football 9; Jazz Band 9-12; Track 9-10; Musical 11-12; Band 9-12

Samantha Watanapongse: Swimming 9-12 (capt. 12); Orchestra 9-12; NHS 11-12; Jazz Band 9; Speech 9-10; Musical 9-11; S. Courtney E. Watkins: Drama 9-10; Project X 9-11; Sign Language Club 12; SADD 9; Evelyn Ann Watterson: Soccer 9-11; Speech 9-12; NHS 11-12; Spanish Club 9-10

Tim Webb: Academic Team 9-12; CEC 9-12; Drama Club 9-12; Football 9-11; French Club 9-12; German Club 9; NHS 11-12; Spanish Club 9-10; Speech/Debate 9-12; Boys' Tennis 12; Boys' Track 9-10; Wrestling 9; Jonathan Wendell: Football 9-12; Wrestling 9-11; American Sign Language Club 12; Adam Martin Wesolowski: Speech/Debate 9-12 (sec. 11, vice pres. 12); Academic Team 9-12; French Club 9-12; NHS 11-12; Tennis 11-12; National Merit Semifinalist 12

Richie White: Cross Country 9-12 (capt. 12); Track 10-12 (capt. 12); Jessica Wilks

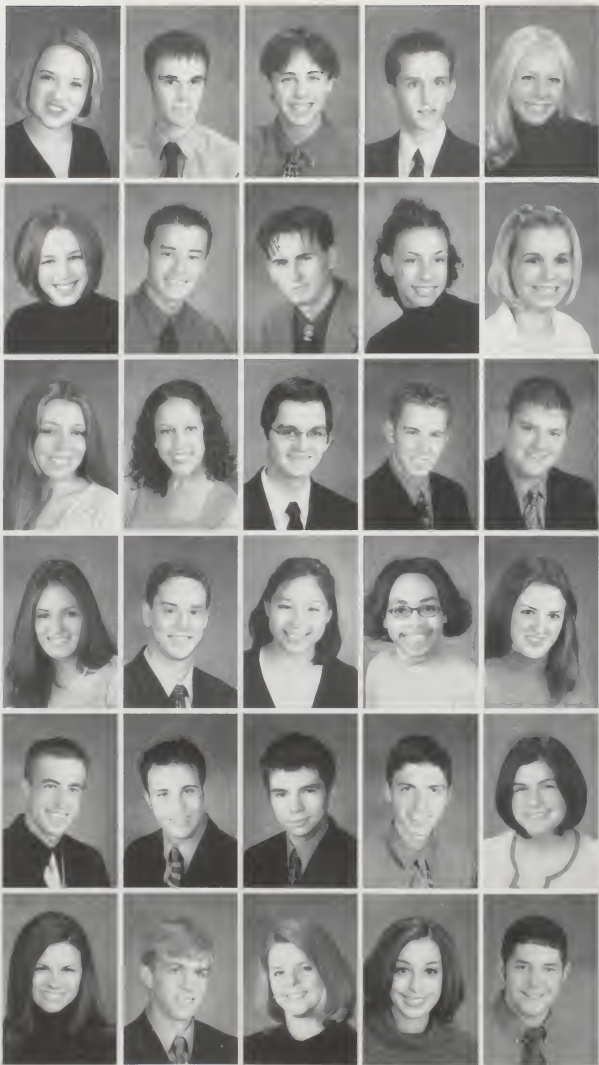
Kara Marie Williams: Cheerleading 9-10 (capt. 10); DECA 10-12 (pres. 12)

Garry Williamson: Soccer 10-12; French Club 12 (pres. 12)

Jessica L. Wilson: Basketball 9; Volleyball 9-12 (capt. 12); Softball 9-12; NHS 11-12; Project X 11; Spanish Club 11

Bryan Wisniewski

Brian Young





Rob Zacny: Football 11, 12; Track 10; Speech/Debate 9, 10; *Crier* (Opinion Ed. 11, Managing Ed. 12)
Stephanie Lauren Zeck: Dance Team 9-12 (capt. 12); Student Govt. 9; CEC 10-12 (treas. 11-12); Orchestra 9-10; NHS 11, 12; French Club 9-10; Tennis 9-10; Speech/Debate 9-10
Yasemin Zeytinoglu: CEC 9-12 (pres. 9-10)
Lauren Ann Ziemba: Basketball 9-10; Volleyball 9-12 (capt. 12); Track 9-12; NHS 11-12; American Sign Language Club 12; Student Govt. 11-12; Spanish Club 11
Laurie Lynn Zurek: Swimming 9; Tennis 10-11



beat the clock

Working as a cashier in Strack & Van Til, Jamie Lee, senior, loads a customer's cart with groceries. "My job placed a strain on my other responsibilities like homework because it was hard to find all the time to get everything done," Jamie said.

longing for comfort

Which luxury will you miss most when you leave for college?

"My mom doing laundry. I've never washed my clothes in my life."

Roger Shieh, senior

"The unlimited access to nearby food. At college I'll actually have to walk to get my food."

Joe Fray, senior

"Not having money whenever I need it. My parents just give me money now. Next year I don't know what I'm going to do."

Jess Collinsworth, senior

time to pay up

After years of relying on their parents for the necessities of life, seniors brace for the upcoming reality of college

SENIORS home turf

Mindful of the scalding temperatures of the oven just a foot away, Kevin Wadycki, senior, cut a nine-inch circle of dough and placed it onto a layer of cornmeal.

Packed into a kitchen filled with five chefs busily finishing orders, Kevin took a break during his thirteen-hour shift at Edwardo's Pizza. In order to learn about the hardships dealing with earning his own money, Kevin accepted the added responsibility of an after-school job.

"It wasn't just about the money," Kevin said. "It also prepared me for the working world."

By balancing jobs, schoolwork and household chores, seniors recognized the need to prepare themselves for the approaching years away from home.

"Seniors needed to be responsible because they were jumping into their future," Julie Spear, senior, said. "If they weren't, they probably dropped out of college and ended up back at home."

Nevertheless, with their minds constantly on the daily hassles of high school, many seniors failed to learn the skills needed in college.

Besides taking out the trash and fixing his room, Bryan Kowalczyk, senior, relied on his parents for most chores.

"When your parents were gone, you couldn't rely on anyone else," Bryan said. "I learned when I went to college."

Not only did some seniors miss the opportunity to gain their independence, but they also failed to learn the merit found in working, according to Kevin.

"There were a lot of kids who just got their extra money from their parents and

spent it on whatever they wanted," Kevin said. "But when I went out with my friends, I thought about how hard it was to earn that much money. It just became harder and harder to spend it."

Unlike some of his peers, Kevin worked for his extra spending money. He realized the value in added work.

After glancing at the clock, Kevin returned to the crowded kitchen to start another order. By dealing with his responsibilities as an incoming college freshman, he learned the benefit of hard work—something that would assist him in his future job endeavors.

Seniors needed to be responsible because they were jumping into their future. If they weren't, they probably dropped out of college and ended up back at home.

Julie Spear, senior

Colleen Adley
Mary Albertson
Renee Albrecht-Mallinger
Daniel Alspach
Vanessa Alvarado
Kelly Amaloo
Victor Anceih
Liz Anderson



Renee Anderson
Stephanie Ansbro
Jovica Balac
Greg Bales
Richard Balkam
Matthew Banach
Christopher Barnes
Tom Barnes



Branka Bastaic
Victoria Beliakova
Bill Beneventi
Christopher Bengivengo
Lauren Biel
Sophia Blakeley
Stephanie Bobeck
Melissa Boeckman



Jacob Boender
Anna Borgo
Mark Botterman
Diana Bozovic
Nicholas Brazinsky
Dawn Brocman
Nate Burchfield
Aubrey Burdeau



Jason Byttow
Dave Caco
Tony Calabrese
Aaron Cameron
Stephanie Campbell
Lydia Carle
Chris Carlos
Korina Chapman



Aaron Cheek
Bryan Cheek
Alex Cheng
Natalie Clippert
Marica Coduti
Daniel Cohen
Robbie Collins
Steve Coulis



Diana Cox
Douglas Coyle
Megan Coyne
Allison Crary
Ted Creagh
Terence Crouch
Shawn Cruz
Jim Cuban



Laura Cuevas
Gabe Culberg
Janush Dalal
Tim Daugherty
Victor Deidigha
Adam Del Rio
Rebecca Delmas
Gabrielle DeLuna



Keith DeMars
Lisa Demkowicz
Michael Depa
Amie Derolf
Melissa Diekelmann
Andy Doesburg
Matthew Domasica
Brian Downing



car TROUBLE

From bad drivers to slow buses, juniors discover their pet peeves in coming and going from school

"When I drove to school, I was always caught behind a school bus and had to stop every other block."

Lauren Hamblin, junior

"I hated when the town plowed the snow right into my driveway and I couldn't get into my car."

Neema Shah, junior

"The traffic of trying to get into the school parking lot. There were a lot of people who weren't very good drivers and I saw a lot of near accidents happen."

Sarah Moseley, junior

"Driving to school was annoying because you had to wake up early."

Steve Coulis, junior

"When people didn't turn into the turning lane, even though they were turning in to the school."

Mary Leitelt, junior

JUNIORS annoyances

stuck in a JAM

Hitching a ride or cruising around in their Volkswagen Bug, juniors face the annoyances of the daily commutes

As the halls filled with students at the sound of the 2:45 p.m. bell, Stacy Frank, junior, pushed her way to the door and her car before the after-school rush of traffic began.

With only 15 minutes to make it to her job in Lansing, Stacy dashed for the door on the days she had to work to avoid the congestion near her spot in the south lot.

"I was usually a couple of minutes late," Stacy said. "It was because people had no consideration for others. I had seen so many accidents almost happen and almost been in a couple myself."

Students like Lisa Demkowicz, junior, even faced traveling annoyances when her dad drove her to school for zero hour. Despite the early departure, four red lights made her late. However, heading home after school posed more danger for pedestrians, according to Lisa.

"I had to cut through the parking lot [when I walked home], and I was always almost getting hit by cars," Lisa said. "Nobody went the speed limit."

Some students like Stacy and her sister made sure they woke up by 6:45 a.m. and left by 7:25 a.m. to avoid the traffic. Mike Golembo, junior, discovered the hazards of the early rush.

"[The most annoying part] was the traffic outside the high school," Mike said. "There were too many people and a lot of bad drivers cutting people off."

From bridge construction to the multiple trains that blocked the routes to school, students found they had to leave extra time for their travels.

Safely turning out of the school's parking lot onto Fisher Street, Stacy felt relief as she freed her truck from the chaotic masses of cars trying to escape.

wheel ORDEALS

Between speeding and parking spot stealers, see the numbers of school driving

backed UP

Due to the 12-week Fran Lin bridge construction, students wait in line to turn onto 45th Avenue as a detour. "The Fran Lin bridge [construction was annoying]," Jessica Ruiz, junior, said. "I took one person home who lived on White Oak, and I lived on Magnolia, so I had to go around it."

550
parking permits issued

3
stopped trains causing excused tardies

5
reported car accidents

10-15
spot stealers per week



Kim Drapac
Natalie Dukich
Shaun Dunn
Kris Duray
Tom Dwers
Esther Economou
Jeff Edens
David Ellis

Steve Fandl
Elizabeth Fattore
Alex Feldman
Ivan Fitzgerald
Steven Flores
Stacy Frank
Sara Frigo
Carly Funston

turning the TABLES

Coping with missing french fries and haywire bells, students struggle to live with school-day quirks and keep a grip on sanity

With one of his eyes following his music and the other fixed on the TV, Paul Sikora, junior, counted down the seconds until the bell and prepared to bolt out the door.

When a storm knocked out bells and announcements in South during first semester, students resorted to televised bells to guide them between classes.

"Not having the bell system was the worst," Paul said. "It wasn't accurate at all, and most of the time teachers used it in their favor against students."

From unforeseen tardies to lunch-room headaches, students waded through school-day annoyances. Even

with the bells working, dawdling freshmen made others late to class, according to Casey Kolderup, junior.

"It annoyed me how people could stand in the middle of the hallway and just stop," Sarah Moseley, junior, said. "They had no regard for other people's feelings. People were trying to get to class, and they didn't care."

With quick strides Paul rushed to his second-hour class, unsure of when the passing period would actually end. Darting in the door just before the TV clicked off, he groaned at his daily struggle and the mad rush he had to make through the halls every day.



Jeff Furticella
Ashley Gajda
Steve Garcia
Nikki Gauthier
Katie Gavin
Gary Ghezzi
Christy Gilbert
Andy Given



Justin Glasen
Kristen Gleason
Joseph Gogolak
Mike Colombo
James Gonzales
Celia Gonzalez
Matt Gornal
Corey Greenya



Nicole Greger
Austin Grow
Justin Gulotta
Lauren Hamblin
Kate Hanas
Elaine Hansen
Emily Hansen
Megan Harker

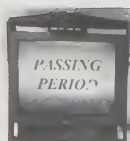


Jeffrey Harris
Natalie Harris
Alyssa Hathaway
Valerie Hauter
Caitlin Hawryszkow
Amy Hayes
Mary Heaney
Mike Helfen



Shane Hendron
Andrew Heneghan
Chris Herr
Elizabeth Herrin
Megan Higgins
Jillian Hmurovic
Emily Hoban
Robert Hoffman





room to **GRIPE**

From adapting to a television-based bell system to surviving daily hallway traffic jams, what irked juniors most during the school day?

"Freshmen who gathered in the middle of the hallways and blocked people trying to get through."

Nick Stone, junior

"The lack of school spirit. People who lived in Munster should have supported their teams."

Marko Medynsky, junior

medieval **MAYHEM**

In a hurry to clean up a spilt goblet of punch, juniors Jeff Harris, Richelle Medellin, Russel Patel and Nidhi Kansal struggle to set their *Macbeth* project back on course. Creating a mock banquet with a feast and dancing, the entire class collaborated for the extra credit opportunity.

"Eliminating fries [from the main event] bothered a lot of people. Even though they still offered them, it was a lot less convenient."

Jenny Nelson, junior

"Going to class. I wasn't allowed to take four and be in the work program until I was a senior."

Greg Bales, junior

"Teachers that gave you so much homework and didn't realize that you had five other classes."

Amanda Porta, junior

Tracey Hoffmann
Anthony Hofstra
James Hofstra
Ian Holloway
Zach Iolobowski
Jenn Hostetter
Randy Hoyle
Diana Huerta

Arthur Insurriaga
John Jamichich
Andrew Jayjack
Amber Jernigan
Lauren Jones
Tamara Jones
Darshak Joshi
Jason Jozwiak

James Kaczka
Mike Kalina
Nidhi Kansal
Puja Kathrotiya
Payal Keshvani
Rachel Kevin
Joshua Kmiec
Matthew Kocel

Casey Kolderup
Jamie Korey
Phil Kosciwiski
Jess Kovach
Kara Kozlowski
Arna Kretz
Laura Krolak
Peter Kubacki

Phillip Kubacki
Connie Kuo
Jon Kutas
Kyle Kutlik
Jennifer LaFond
Mirjana Lakich
Katie Landowski
Vita Lazauskas



Megan Leahy
Mike Lee
Mary Leitelt
Melissa Leslie
Josh Levin
Angelina Lewellyn
Matt Lewis
Alessandar Lukic



Jeffrey Luptak
Nathan Mack
Courtney Mambourg
Joey Manderino
Kelly Markovich
Brittany Marschak
Kyle Martinez
Marc Anthony Martinez



Jennifer Maruszczak
Benjamin Massie
Brian Mayer
Mike McCullough
Jonathan Meacham
Milan Medakovic
Raechelle Medellin
Richelle Medellin



Marko Medynsky
Dominique Mercier
Lauren Mikler
Kelly Miller
Ryan Miller
Jessica Montella
Kelly Montella
Dustin Moriarty



JUNIORS annoyances

double

TROUBLE

Taking comfort in knowing they have a family member to turn to or shaking off tag-along siblings, students relate to family ties while maintaining their individuality

As an unfamiliar face approached Tony Hofstra, junior, in the hallway, he received the stranger's greeting with a quizzical look. He had never seen this girl before, yet she spoke as if they knew each other well.

After a few moments of puzzled silence, Tony solved the mystery. The girl had made the common mistake of confusing him with his twin brother Jim.

Tony and Jim often faced similar situations with students and teachers.

"When I had Ms. [Beth] Vesa [math teacher], my brother had her, too," Tony said. "It took her a while to figure out that we were two different people."

Due to the amount of time they spent with one another, Tony and Jim shared friends. Although they didn't have many of the same classes, seeing each other in the halls gave them a chance to talk or discuss plans for using their mutual car.

Nikki Williamson, junior, experienced a different relationship with her brother Rich Williamson, senior, during the average day. While the two had some similar friends, Nikki avoided spending too much time with her older brother.

"Other people told me, 'Your brother is so cute,' but I didn't want to hear it at all," Nikki said. "He acted differently around me than he did with his friends."

Having a sibling at the same school entailed both positive and negative aspects, according to Bryan Cheek, junior. Bryan and his twin brother Aaron shared both their friends and their car.

"You always had someone by your side, anytime you needed them," Bryan said. "We were close, and we helped each other out whenever we could."

Although Bryan and Aaron attended one class together, they didn't see each other much during the average school

day, according to Bryan. However, spending a little time away from one another did the brothers some good.

"It was like having a best friend," Bryan said. "After hanging out for a while, we would get sick of each other. We argued a lot when we were together, so it was good that we only saw each other in school when we were at our lockers and in that one class."

While some students enjoyed the benefits of attending school with their sibling, others took relief in knowing that they wouldn't bump into their brother or sister too often.

As Tony explained to his brother's friend that she had mistaken him for Jim, she reacted with a confused look. Although initially annoyed, Tony laughed off the incident and searched for his brother's face in the crowded hallway to tell him the story.



Sarah Moseley
Kristina Mueller
Caito Muir
Lee Murphy
Lisa Murray
Valerie Myszak
Jenny Nelson
Jeff Newcomb

Derek Newell
Tom Newman
Richard Nichols
David Noel
Ryan Novotney
Max Ntiamoah
Gina Nuzzo
Kelley O'Brien

Shannon O'Keefe
Danny Ogren
Jawad Omery
Benjamin Oprinovich
James Osborne
Amy Parker
Leslie Parker
Keith Partain

Jillian Pasztor
Russell Patel
Shyam Patel
Patrick Patterson
Nicole Pavnick
Matthew Poach
Audra Pertulis
Ashley Perez

all in the FAMILY

Take this quiz to see if you spend too much time with your sibling.

- 1** Your friends greet you with:
- "Hey! How's it going?"
 - "Hey...Where's your brother/sister?"
 - "Hey! Do you have a brother/sister? I met a kid today with the same last name as you."

- 2** When you see your sibling at school, you:
- smile and say hello.
 - run to catch up on the last hour's gossip.
 - pretend you don't know them.

- 3** Over the weekend you:
- hang out with your sibling when your friends have other plans.
 - double date with your sibling.
 - refuse to go if your sibling will be within a five-mile radius.

Mostly a's: solo security

Your parents raised you well! You have a healthy relationship with your sibling, and you spend just enough time together.

Mostly b's: two-of-a-kind

You need to get a life of your own! You and your sibling are going to have to learn how to separate some day.

Mostly c's: where's the love?

You almost forget your own sibling's name! You should get in some quality time before one of you leaves for college.



team EFFORT

During first hour Elaine and Emily Hansen, juniors, research in the library for English teacher Mr. Robin Tobias' class. Having a class together proved helpful when the two could help each other with homework or studying. Although Elaine and Emily didn't share the same lunch hour, the missed social time didn't keep them from sharing friends.

too
slow
for

COMFORT

Whether scraping piles of snow off cars or pushing through the halls after class, students adapt to uncontrollable daily nuisances

Briskily stepping out of her second-hour U.S. history class, Coleen Adley, junior, pushed her way through a mass of freshmen. Just when she thought had overcome the crowd, she caught sight of her biggest pet peeve.

Spotting two affectionate lovebirds nestled in a corner, she rolled her eyes and yelled to the couple, "Get a room!"

"Public displays of affection were at an all-time high," Coleen said. "I just did not think it was tactful, especially when they were up against my locker."

Though she hated to see smooching in the halls, Coleen couldn't stop it. From PDA's to snow, students dealt with their irritations. Snow fall meant hours of shoveling for Lee Murphy, junior.

"Whenever it snowed, I knew that I had to go out and shovel," Lee said. "I tried to trick my brother into doing it for me, but he usually didn't do it."

Even if they didn't face bad weather, some students fought traffic because of Fran Lin Parkway construction. Receiving her second tardy slip, Sonal Gupta, junior, woke up early the next day to avoid another. But hitting six red lights on the way cost her the third tardy.

Whether waking up extra early to beat the bell or turning heads away from a couple hidden in a corner, juniors just couldn't avoid some irritations that lay beyond their control. Despite her complaining, Coleen knew that her pet peeve would always bother her.

push and SHOVE

Maneuvering through the freshman halls, Aubrey Velasquez, freshman, tries to find the best route to get to softball practice after school. Students often complained of the congested hallways that hindered their abilities to make it to class on time.



all wound UP Figure out if you let the little nuisances roll off your back or push you to the brink.

1 Late to first-hour Pre-Calculus, you scrounge through your locker only to realize that your friend took your math homework to copy. You:

a. head to class, shrugging it off and realizing you would've done the same if you were desperate.

b. get revenge by replacing tomorrow's math homework with your little brother's worksheet on long division.

2 While flying from South to North, a group of freshmen milling in the middle of the hallway suddenly stops you in your tracks. You:

a. tap the nearest ones on the shoulder and politely ask that they make a path for you.

b. drop a shoulder and get a running start towards the group, knocking all of them off their feet in one fell swoop.

3 Much to your dismay, you stroll to the main event line only to find that the food services staff has halted the daily french fry routine. You:

a. heap a hefty portion of corn onto your tray instead, realizing you can live without the potato intake.

b. initiate a one-man picket line with a hand made sign and rally support for the cause with the catchy slogan "Wedges never! Fries forever!"

Mostly a's: free and easy
Congratulations! It doesn't matter if the ketchup dispenser splatters all over your new outfit—you stay cool, calm and collected, even on the worst of bad days.

Mostly b's: rage-a-holic
You're always at the end of your rope and wouldn't hesitate to lash out at the nearest lunch lady for dishing out mashed potatoes instead of your beloved french fries.

Sarah Pfeifer
Jim Phelan
Tim Piatek
Alex Pilawski
Janet Fleitner
Jon Fleitner
Amanda Porta
Greg Pottorff



Chrystal Prahlow
Lindsay Puterko
Paul Raddatz
Danielle Ramirez
Joseph Ramirez
Phillip Resler
Kyle Rice
Lisa Rietmann



Nicole Rietmann
Angie Ritchie
Mike Roman
Peach Roman-Lagunas
Adam Rothschild
Ryan Rueth
Jessica Ruiz
Alana Salata





Amy Saltanovitz
Chad Samara
Ann-Marie Sands
Warren Sontner
Maribeth Sarnecki
Katie Schlesinger
Erin Schmiedel
Patrick Scully

Gina Selent
Sami Seligman
John Semko
Amit Shah
Neema Shah
Jaime Shapiro
Jessica Sherman
Kristen Shofner

Paul Sikora
Crystal Simpson
Jill Sinchak
Liam Singer
Samantha Skaggs
Steve Skalka
Joe Skeritch
Kristi Skundz

Lindsay Sunaron
Brian Smith
Steve Smith
Jenna Snodden
Laura Somenzi
Kristin Sopata
Melody Spasoff
Helen Sroka

Madelyne Stenger
Jonathan Stinnett
Mike Stoffregen
Nick Stone
Benjamin Stork
Marc Strick
Amanda Studniarz
Ryan Swing

Brian Szymanski
Christine Taber
Nick Thaera
Tiffany Thomas
Brandon Thompson
John Tomazini
Emilia Topete
Lauren Treasure

Simal Turan
Ashley Velchek
Stephanie Volkoff
Nick Vrebel
Dave Watson
Lenny Weiss
Jason White
Linnea Wiancek

Kathryn Wickland
Nikki Williamson
Lidiya Yakubovskaya
David York
Lucas Yothment
Emily Yitri
Shannon Zenos
Mario Zerngast

Victor Zerngast
Janina Zins
Jenn Zivich

Imran Abbasi
Milan Acamovic
Amanda Achter
Bryan Adams
Aja Akhtay
Emily Alberti
Drew Albertson
Daniel Alfonsi



Rachel Anderson
Stephanie Andjelic
Matthew Baker
Athena Bakris
Jillian Balazs
Kimberly Balzer
Darius Bamboat
Bart Banach



Lauren Banas
Chirag Barai
Kristina Barney
Julie Bassetto
Justine Bauer
Brooke Becchino
George Behrens
Jonathan Benedek



Joselynn Berg
Scott Bertagnoli
Nancy Bielfeld
Brandi Bishop
Tyson Blake
Nikki Bland
Jimmy Bochnowski
Robert Bogs



Bryan Bokowy
Dustin Bothwell
Ryan Bowers
Sarah Bradish
Kristen Brazel
Ricky Brennan
Andrew Bridgman
David Brown



George Budzik
Lauren Bugajski
Tom Burek
Christina Burke
Jon Caddick
Josh Caddick
Rachel Caseton
Alexandra Castaneda



Michael Celozzi
Ashley Chemersinsky
Lauren Cherrier
Euna Choi
Wally Cirafesi
Pete Circ
Kara Clark
Louis Contos



Jamie Cook
Nick Cosme
Stephanie Coulis
Paul Cowgill
Matthew Culp
Greg Curran
Suzanne Curtis
Brienne Cusick



Mary Rose Dal Polo
Justin DalCorobbo
Ashley Damjanovich
Katherine Daniels
Reesie Davis
Kaitlin De Cero
Thomas De Giulio
Samuel Deidigha



clock WORK

Follow Josh Raycroft, sophomore, as he squeezes daily swim practices into the wee hours of the morning

- 5:15 a.m. Wake up to an alarm
- 5:20 Scarf down a Great Starts instant sausage breakfast sandwich
- 6:05 Dive into the cold swimming pool to practice the 100 breast
- 7:25 Sit down with the Swim Team at the Breakfast Bar to relax
- 7:38 Head down to social studies teacher Mr. Ross Haller's room
- 7:46 Streak into class a minute late



close CONTACT

Putting in her contacts, Jayme Jedrzejczak, sophomore, prepares for school. In the morning Jayme completed her other chores of feeding her two birds, two rabbits and dog. "When I was late for the bus, I just wore my hair in a ponytail, threw food at the dog and ate on the bus," Jayme said.



morning rush

From finishing a Spanish worksheet to attending 6 a.m. wrestling practices, sophomores develop routines to prepare for school

As she peered out from under her bed covers at 4:45 a.m., Kristen Brazel, sophomore, considered hitting the snooze button for the third time for seven more minutes of sleep.

After reality hit, she slipped into a pair of blue Adidas pants and jumped into her car for a five-minute trip to the Times Distribution Center, beginning her morning as a paper delivery girl.

"It wore me out, but I did it all for the scholarship," Kristen said. "It was just such a waste of time and gas."

From carrying a bag full of newspapers to finishing the homework due that day, sophomores customized their morning hours to fit their busy schedules. David Resler, sophomore, forced himself to wake up earlier than normal to attend the mandatory swimming practice. However, one aspect of the swimming season cut his preparation time in half.

"I took five-minute showers," David said. "I

SOPHOMORES habits

HOUR

guess it was because I didn't have any hair after I shaved it for swimming."

Compared to David's quick preparation for the day's events, girls typically had more tasks to complete in order to get the ideal look they wanted for school, according to Rachel Gill, sophomore.

"Girls had to do a whole lot more stuff in the morning than guys, like putting on make-up," Rachel said. "All guys had to do was put gel in their hair, and that was it. Girls spent more time picking out the clothes they wore and how they looked."

No matter which clothes they wore or how much time they used for getting ready, sophomores divvied up the early morning hours based on their needs.

Pulling into the parking lot, Kristen anticipated the one highlight of her trip. Because of her job, she started dating the boy who handed her papers every morning. According to Kristen, that made the hassle worth it.



heart WARMING

Early on a Saturday morning, Ryann Perilinski, sophomore, pours milk and hot coffee during a pancake breakfast hosted by her church. "I usually woke up at nine on weekends, so it wasn't too big of a deal to get up that early," Ryann said. "I just wanted to give something back to the church."

Addison Del Rio
Todd Dell'Aquila
Robin Dickens
Jason Dillon
Amanda Diombala
Sara Dobrinich
Kristie Drudge
John Dumakowski

Stephanie Dybel
Nicholas Egnatz
Elise Eldert
Lindsey Ellingsen
Jordan Ellison
Jacob Elman
Dave Estrada
Billy Evans

Zachary Fabert
Steve Fell
Kelley Fernandez
Ericksen Ferraz
Justin Flick
Bryan Flores
Jenna Flores
Brent Fox

Rob Franklin
Michael Friedman
Tony Gallagher
Sheiphali Gandhi
Alex Gikas
Rachel Gill
Danielle Gillund
Jonathan Giro



SOPHOMORES
habits

what's
on your

PLATE

Licking chocolate off their fingers or giving up meat for good, sophomores dish out the best and the worst of their eating habits

Jelly donuts and Emily Stine, sophomore, created a dangerous combination. One glimpse of the jam-filled, sugar-sprinkled pastry and Emily couldn't resist.

"When I saw something I wanted, I didn't think about how fatty or 'junky' it was," Emily said. "My eating habits weren't very healthy at all."

Emily didn't think twice about nutrition before reaching for another candy bar. She ate out every night on the weekend at restaurants like Kentucky Fried Chicken and Applebee's. She even blocked out an after-school schedule tailored to her particular eating habits.

"It usually started with something chocolate," Emily said. "About an hour later, I had to have salt. Then, there was dinner. After that I would usually wait an hour and repeat the chocolate/salt cycle before going to bed."

Emily admitted that her junk-food routine would probably catch up to her. Though other sophomores heeded the warning "You are what you eat," some simply didn't think to count calories.

"I never looked at the nutrition label," Lauren Bugajski, sophomore, said. "I didn't have any reason to. I wasn't watching my weight or anything."

For reasons regarding health and personal beliefs, Neel Shah, sophomore, decided to try a vegetarian diet at the beginning of the year. In addition, gruesome descriptions of meatpacking industries in Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* scared Neel away from meat.

After making the change in his lifestyle, Neel packed a lunch with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich to bring to school every day. Often times the school lunch menu didn't appeal to vegetarians according to Neel. With the exception of eggs and milk, Neel excluded all animal products from his diet, including beef, fish and poultry.

"It wasn't promoted by my religion to eat red meat," Neel said. "Cows were considered sacred. [Vegetarians] could live a healthier life. You could get the same kind of proteins from lentils as you could from meat. I ate a lot of Indian food, which had those things in it."

Neel hoped his choice to give up meat would soon reward him with a longer, healthier life. Other sophomores with less nutritious habits hoped they would never have to suffer the consequences of a sweet tooth. Refusing to let her mouth water any longer, Emily grabbed the donut and let her taste buds go wild.

vegging OUT

From ovo-lacto to vegan, scan a breakdown of vegetarian vocabulary terms

Vegan: abstains from all animal produce, including meat, fish, poultry, eggs, milk and honey

Ovo-lacto: same as vegan, but also eats milk and egg products; the most popular form of vegetarianism

Pesca-vegetarian: similar to ovo-lacto but incorporates fish and seafood into the diet

Pollo-vegetarian: similar to ovo-lacto but eats poultry

Semi-vegetarian: eliminates red meat from the diet, but eats some fish or poultry

sources: www.vegweb.com and www.oldwayspt.org



feeling stuffed

Sipping from his milk carton, Nick Egnatz, sophomore, enjoys his \$1.50 cheese-filled Bosco sticks from the a la carte line. Even though some students didn't find school food particularly healthy, they chose to buy rather than pack a lunch.

food for THOUGHT

sophomores confess what they truly think about healthy eating

30%
eat out three to five
times a week

4%
always think about
nutrition when they eat

71%
sometimes think
about nutrition

25%
never think about
nutrition

77 sophomores surveyed



Jenny Cluek
Christopher Gomez
Kristin Gorski
Alexander Grantner
Scott Gray
Sara Gregson
Brooke Groeschke
Aaron Gross

Carly Grow
Jason Grunewald
Christina Guanzon
Mark Hannigan
Jill Hanrahan
Sheree Hanrahan
Chris Hansel
Patrick Hansen

Molly Hanson
Lauren Harrington
Sara Harvey
Drew Hawflaire
Allison Hawkins
Brian Hayes
Jacqueline Hayes
Kristina Herbeck

John Herr
Megan Hershberger
Elizabeth Hinkleman
Bryce Hlista
Chad Holajter
Nate Holobowski
Jia Hou
Katie Howarth

Nicole Huffman
Alex Jacobs
James Jamrock
Carolyn Jania
Miljan Jankovic
Jayme Jedrzejczak
Aaron Jernigan
Matthew Jillson

Christine Johnson
David Johnson
Emily E. Jones
Emily L. Jones
Danielle Jordan
Andrew Jorgensen
Shreyas Joshi
Adam Kalembe

Colleen Kamieniecki
Danijela Karanik
Matt Kasenga
Adam Kaufman
Kersten Kelly
Kate Kerner
Melissa Kerzuer
Kristina Kesely

Joseph Kewitz
Julie Kickenapp
Kara Klebe
Jim Knesek
Philip Kompure
Julia Konopasek
Samantha Korda
Meghan Kosiba

Christopher Kozlowski
Darcie Kozlowski
Lisa Krismanick
Brian Kuhn
Pat Kunka
Katrina Kupski
Andrea Lackey
Christina Largus

Kate Laudermilk
Laura Lautz
Emily Lawrence
Andrew Lee
Brandon Lee
Maureen Leopold
Billy Lewis
Justin Libak



Thea Logan
Mike Lowe
David Lukonski
Timothy Macak
Lindsay Mambourg
James Manuel
Joshua Martin
Jason Mayer



James Mayfield
Michael Mc Carthy
Jeffrey McCullough
Erin Mc Guan
Rachel McComas
Michelle McIntyre
Kevin McLean
Kelly McWilliams



Madonna Mecha
Milena Medakovic
Rachel Medina
Sherri Mehek
Britney Meier
Chris Mihalo
Rachel Mihich
Kate Mikels



Lindsay Miller
Michelle Miskimins
Andrew Moffitt
Madilyn Moran
Alexandria Morley
Madeleine Morley
Michael Morley
David Murks



Waled Musa
Bhavik Nana
Tony Nishimura
Thomas Novosel
Katherine Ntiamoah
Roddy Oancea
Melissa Obszanski
Natalia Paez



David Paliga
Jeffrey Papaleo
Nilay Parikh
Kinray Patel
Vishal Patel
Nicole Patterson
Mike Penman
John Perkins



Ryann Perlinski
Russell Petersen
Julie Petrone
Daniel Phillips
Corie Poppa
Elissa Porte
Michelle Potter
Tom Powley



Alex Prole
Michael Prybylski
Elizabeth Puteko
Kathy Pycinska
Suzanne Quasny
Brandon Rafacz
Kara Ralowski
Matthew Ramirez





Stephanie Rangel
Josh Raycraft
Kaitlin Rebesco
Megan Remece
Kristopher Renzi
Marjana Repac
David Resler
Amanda Reuter

David Rick
Claire Robertson
Nicole Rogers
Allison Rosario
Tosca Salvacion
Dana Sarber
Jeff Schmidt
Renée Schmitt

go **FIGURE**

From admitted coach potatoes to fitness fanatics, sophomores define their fitness preferences

- 11%** never work out at all
- 46%** work out at least four times a week
- 18%** have a gym membership
- 60%** run on a regular basis
- 90%** lift weights as their main form of exercise

77 sophomores surveyed

friendly **MOTIVATER**

Jogging alongside Natalia Paez, sophomore, Michael Celozzi, sophomore, completes his daily run. "[Running] was a really good way of staying in shape," Michael said. "[When you ran with someone] you didn't focus on the cramps or cramping up or getting tired; you could run more."



finding the perfect

SOPHOMORES
habits

FIT

Glued to the TV for hours on end or hitting the weights at the gym every free moment, sophomores develop their fitness habits

"Pull your ribs together!" Sighing, Maureen Leopold, sophomore, did her best to follow her teacher's command.

Driving to Chicago for dance classes four times a week, Maureen followed a rather rigorous fitness regimen.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, she took three hours of class from 6-9 p.m.; and on Saturdays she spent four more hours at Ruth Page, a dance studio and company, downtown.

"I started [dancing] when I was just three," Maureen said. "I liked to dance because I loved to perform. Also, it was good exercise because I was [at class] all the time."

Though Maureen scheduled her life around her dance classes, other sophomores instead tailored their workouts to fit their own agenda, according to Jonathan Benedek, sophomore.

From bicycling to rollerblading, sophomores designed their own exercise plans. Students who chose to participate in community leagues or school sports

supplemented their activity with their personal routine, like Jillian Balazs, sophomore. In addition to competing and training with the Dance Team, Jillian worked out individually by running, weight training and taking two additional dance classes every week.

"I thought fitness was very important," Jillian said. "It gave you something to do. It was better than sitting around on your butt."

While some students like Jillian sought memberships at one of the area gyms, others utilized their own home equipment. Jonathan worked out with his set of weights

and a system of bench and leg presses to stay in top shape for Biddy Ball and the Babe Ruth baseball league.

"I had to [work out]; I didn't want to be a coach potato," Jonathan said.

Whether working out to stay in shape or condition for a sport, sophomores formed their own fitness habits. Even after three long, strenuous hours of dancing, Maureen still felt rejuvenated.

"I thought fitness was very important. It gave you something to do. It was better than sitting around on your butt."

Jillian Balazs,
sophomore

weighing the **COSTS** the cost crunch of local gyms

The Fitness
Pointe

Initial: \$149
Monthly: \$50

World Gym

Initial: \$25
Monthly: \$25

Womens'
Workout World

Initial: \$149
Monthly: \$18-23

Omni 41

Initial: varies
Monthly: \$43

SOPHOMORES
habits

living for the

NIGHTLIFE

Whether spending endless hours talking to friends online or pre-planning the perfect outfit for the next day, sophomores reveal what goes on from the moment school lets out until the wee hours of the night

After brushing his teeth and washing his face, Steve Fell, sophomore, went to his room and crawled into bed. One final element completed his nightly routine.

"I turned on the TV and put the sleep timer on for an hour and then went to bed," Steve said. "I couldn't fall asleep without the TV on. I put on 'The Simpsons' or whatever was on Fox."

Students like Steve developed their own systematic schedules during their afternoons and nights. Jon Caddick, sophomore, prayed every night before bed, a value instilled in him by attending church. As an active athlete, Jon kept busy with constant practices but didn't let them throw off his nightly schedule.

"[Practices] helped me because I was in more of a routine," Jon said.

Setting the night on a schedule worked for other students as well. Kevin

I spent probably five hours online just talking to friends. You could talk to more people online than on the phone.

Jill Hanrahan, sophomore

McLean, sophomore, listened to the radio for about two hours before bed. He enjoyed the antics of the hosts of "Love Line" on Q101. Kevin also spent about three hours online a night but still longed for more computer time.

"I liked working on my computer," Kevin said. "I wanted more time to rebuild it and get new parts. I was learning from my dad and friends."

Some students shared their extra time with others. They chose going online as a way to pass homework-free hours.

"I spent probably five hours online just talking to friends," Jill Hanrahan, sophomore, said. "You could talk to more people online than on the phone."

Getting a head start in the evening helped students in the morning. Lisa Krismanick, sophomore, picked out an outfit every night to avoid rushing the next day. Other students fought with the temptation of bad habits such as procrastination. Stephanie Dybel, sophomore, said she sometimes talked on the phone too much or watched TV instead of working.

"I tried to make myself think I had more time than I did," Stephanie said.

Sophomores formed their personal evening habits ranging from listening to a favorite radio show to praying before turning in for the night. As Steve lay in bed, he drifted off into sleep listening to the comical antics of "The Simpsons."

after HOURS

Night after night sophomores park in front of the computer to go online for work and play.

33%

spent one to two hours online per day

5%

maintained their own personal web page

37%

chose Yahoo! as their favorite search engine

45%

downloaded music

66%

used the internet to chat with friends instantly

hitting the SACK

Clad in her pajamas, Britney Meier, sophomore, studies her math book's examples for a test before going to bed. "I studied in bed every night to get away from the noise and because it was comfortable," Britney said.

77 sophomores surveyed



Jackie Schneider
Robert Schoon
Andrew Schutz
Daniel Sealy
Leah Shaffer
Neel Shah
Sapna Shah
Shivani Sharma





Scott Sherwood
Mike Shideler
Amanda Shike
Mike Shinkin
Anton Shishkin
Richard Shudick
Raymond Sicinski
Mark Sikora

Nicole Simchak
John Simmons
Christopher Sipes
Courtney Skaggs
Lauren Skibinski
AJ Skinner
Kristi Smith
Krystle Smith

Nicholas Smith
Steven Sochacki
Jessica Solis
Tony Spinoso
Andrew Spivney
Sheri Spynlik
Ana Sretenovic
Sheena Srivastava

Amanda Stamos
Scott Stawewicz
Lindsey Steele
Natalie Stigall
Emily Stine
Sarah Stockle
Maria Stopper
Mike Strain

Scott Strandberg
Nedra Stuart
Dijita Sundi
TJ Surma
Ryan Szanyi
Katie Szewka
Steven Szwet
Craig Talbot

Kristin Tanzillo
Brian Tepper
Michael Thompson
Michael Tiberi
Lauren Torres
Toshuru Toyama
Jeffrey Trgovich
Rebecca Triemstra

Ashley Trounoularis
Hali Tsolakos
Susan Valand
Cathy Van Der Giessen
Michael Van Vossen
Joshua Varney
Gregorio Velasquez
Timothy Veldkamp

Morgan Wagner
Stacey Welsh
Chris Wey
Matthew Whitlatch
Clark Wick
Daniel Witkus
Victoria Wojciechowski
Lauren Wright

Kevin Wysock
Donny Yamtich
Mike Yatsko
Jill Young
Mike Zentala
Stacy Zuick
Jerred Zukanovich

Ena Akoforo
Daniel Albrecht-Mallinger
Elena Alcalá
Elizabeth Alonzo
Ashley Alters
Mario Alvarez
Lori Andjelich
Eric Appelsies



Jessica Arens
Spelios Bacoyanis
Mark Balicki
Steve Balog
Brent Banach
Jacquelyn Banas
Joel Barnes
Jordan Barnes



Ariel Bazan
Kyle Becich
Michelle Becka
Natalie Belkairous
Erica Bhavsar
Andrew Bissonnette
Breanne Bizon
Martin Blumberg



Brittany Bohling
Zak Boswell
Doug Boyer
Emily Bradley
Stephanie Brajak
Jessica Brakulis
Ashley Brian
Beau Brokop



Ashley Brown
Lucy Brown
Grant Burdeau
Sarah Burnstein
Nicole Cacich
John Camp
Laura Campos
Marian Campos



Jenna Candiano
Nicholas Capizzani
Adam Carlson
Ashley Carlson
Lisa Marie Carrillo
Nicole Castor
Phil Chan
Christen Chapman



Chetan Chaubal
Michael Cheek
Allison Chelgen
David Chen
Jason Chen
Gina Christopher
Rich Cigler
Trevor Clippert



Matthew Coduti
Corrie Cummins
Lauren Davis
Shannen Davis
Jeffrey De Armond
Bianca Del Rio
Christopher Demars
Matthew Deroif



Ashley Devries
Emily Diekmann
Ryan Dillner
Marko Djuric
Christina Domenico
Ryan Drees
Ashley Drobac
Pete Drogolewicz



turning to the silver

SCREEN

As they curl up on the couch or munch on a tub of theater popcorn, freshmen hush as movies take over the screen and succeed in making their audiences cringe at the gore and laugh until they cry

As the lights dimmed, a group of girls prepared to embark on the adventures of a woolly mammoth, a saber-toothed tiger and a sloth. Katie Korem, freshman, couldn't believe she let her friends drag her to watch the cartoon movie "Ice Age."

"I didn't want to see it," Katie said. "I thought it would be really stupid. It was Disney; what could you expect?"

Despite her skeptical attitude, Katie sat through the film and ended up liking it. Though she had anticipated nothing more than a "little kid movie," Katie found the story cute and entertaining.

When freshmen hunted for ways to amuse themselves, the movies sometimes offered the perfect solution. Those lucky enough to snatch a ride scuttled off to local theaters. Dan Grunewald,

I liked action movies because they were suspenseful and kept you on the edge of your seat.

Mike Svilar, freshman

freshman, liked to avoid transportation troubles and rent a movie to watch in the comfort of a friend's home.

Played on the big screen or the small, films boasted a definite advantage over books, according to Dan. Through realistic images movies could bring stories written on paper to life.

"I didn't like reading," Dan said. "In movies you could see the pictures, and you knew what you were going to see. In a book you had to imagine it."

Movies themes spanning from comedy to drama attracted a mixture of audiences. Mike Svilar, freshman, preferred action movies such as "Blade II" that held his interest until the very end.

"['Blade II'] was a combination of a real martial arts movie and a vampire movie," Mike said. "I liked action movies because they were suspenseful and kept you on the edge of your seat."

For Katie comedy and horror stirred the emotions more than action did.

"I liked movies that could make me laugh, and I thought it was cool to get freaked out," Katie said.

The power of the movies lured Katie to the theater three times over spring break. After initially doubting that cartoon animals could impress her, she rather enjoyed the slippery tale.



the reel DEAL

Though ratings try to shelter freshmen from sex, violence and bad language, most agree they can handle it all.

71%

saw "Shrek" (PG)

5%

saw "In the Bedroom" (R)

15%

saw "A Beautiful Mind" (PG-13)

35%

saw "Moulin Rouge" (PG-13)

14%

couldn't get into an R-rated movie at the theater

65%

think kids under 17 should be able to see R movies

ticket TAKER

As an employee takes her money, freshman Ashley Brown buys a movie ticket at Showplace 16. Students crowded the local theater on weekends.

65 freshmen surveyed



Brennan Drosos
Jennifer Dubish
Ashley Dudzik
Joe Dwards
Rade Elek
Bradley Ellis
Teo Ellis
Nicole Enright

Mark Evans
Mark Everette
Jon Fisher
Jared Flahaven
Stephanie Frank
Kelly Fray
Jonathan Funston
Jeff Gaik

glued
to the TUBE

Unable to leave the house easily, some freshmen spend free time tuning in to their favorite TV shows while others avoid staring at the small screen because of full schedules

After venturing into his college sister's room, Patrick Los, freshman, lay back on a lazy Saturday afternoon to watch a video tape of "Lisa, the Beauty Queen," his favorite episode of "The Simpsons."

As a loyal "Simpsons" fan, Patrick watched reruns and new episodes until he memorized most of the show's trivia.

"I liked the show because they made fun of things happening in the news or famous events in history," Patrick said.

Since most freshmen lacked an easy means of transportation to hangouts, TV provided an in-house entertainment outlet. Liz Alonzo, freshman, enjoyed reality television like "The Real World."

"I watched 'The Real World' because I could think about things that really happened in life," Liz said.

Students didn't limit themselves to the cable and regular channels if they didn't have to. Steve Millies, freshman,

"Sometimes I watched TV while doing homework, but I didn't know how I did it. I just listened but not really watched. It kept me interested."

Sean Leto, freshman

took advantage of special technology to add to his enjoyment.

"We had a satellite dish," Steve said. "I liked it because you didn't have to flip all the time. It had a guide to know what was on and more channels."

Not only did television serve as relaxing entertainment, but it also created a helpful background tool for some who liked doing homework during their favorite shows. Kelly Yurasovich, freshman, did homework during commercials so that she didn't miss anything.

Sean Leto, freshman, turned on the television to stay interested in his work.

"Sometimes I watched TV while doing my homework, but I didn't know how I did it," Sean said. "I just listened, but I didn't really watch."

While older students with more work may have had less spare time, some freshmen such as Melissa Jurich also kept busy with soccer and softball. If she had time afterward, she could catch a little TV; but Melissa said that even with more hours in the day, she wouldn't have watched that much.

"I liked to be active," Melissa said. "I didn't like to sit for a while. I would have gone outside or run instead."

With needs of relaxation or an entertaining background for homework, freshmen tuned in to the "boob tube" to suit their wants and needs. As Patrick popped his tape into the VCR, he relaxed and enjoyed "The Simpsons."

Joseph Cajewski
Morgan Geberin
Greg Gier
Sam Golfis
Ellil Gopalan
Marian Gornal
Rachel Gosciej
Jason Gott



Clint Grall
Carissa Grant
Tom Grantner
Melissa Graska
Andrew Graves
Genevieve Grdina
Adam Grunewald
Daniel Grunewald



Lauren Guidotti
Manini Gupta
Brogan Guthrie
Marcus Hammonds
Heather Haneman
John Hansen
Steve Harker
Katie Harvey



Allison Hasselof
Michael Hawryszkow
Collin Hayes
Amy Heaney
Matthew Heintz
Shawn Hendron
Jim Hennes
Chris Hernandez



in CONTROL

With remote control in hand, Mack Rawden, freshman, uses the guide on his TiVo program to set up features

for taping a hockey game. Mack enjoyed extras such as pausing live shows and fast taping. "Before taping took 10 minutes, but [with TiVo] it was a 2-second deal," Mack said.



TV LAND

With the delightful feeling of having their homework done or knowing they can procrastinate just a little longer, freshman sit back and relax in front of the "boob tube."

Hours watched in one week

25% 0-5 hrs.	14% 15-20 hrs.
37% 5-10 hrs.	11% over 20 hrs.

Favorite viewing hours

65% evening	15% morning
18% while doing homework	37% after school
18% dinner time	37% late at night
5% other	

Favorite TV program

20% "The Simpsons"
14% "Friends"

Favorite type of show

9% sitcoms	9% dramas
6% game shows	8% reality shows
15% music TV	12% other

65 freshmen surveyed



Justin Hernandez
Marty Hernandez
Adam Hirsch
Irena Hnatuk
Amy Hoffman
Kevin Hoffman
Taylor Hopkins
Teddy Horowitz

Laura Hruska
Adam Hruskocy
Michael Hubbard
Kaylen Huggy
Joe Hunt
Blake Hunter
Steven Hus
Holly Ispas

Tim Johnson
Justine Jones
Michelle Jones
Erin Joseph
Melissa Jurich
Hana Kell
Kristen Kendall
Leah Kilbarda

Andrew Koessler
Kaitlin Korem
Erica Koselke
Foti Koulianos
Stephen Krolak
Nikola Kutansky
Prince Kwateng
Eric LaMagdeleine

without
rhyme or

REASON

Although their musical preferences differ, most freshmen share the tendency of turning towards music to find common interests between friends or for relaxation and entertainment

Bobbing his head to the rhymes on the radio station Power 92.3, Ariel Bazan, freshman, took advantage of some solo time to listen to the music of Three 6 Mafia, his favorite rap group.

Although he knew his parents didn't appreciate the bad language, Ariel needed his favorite type of music.

"I listened to music every single day, whether I was doing homework or just had some free time," Ariel said. "It gave me time away from my family so that I could just be by myself."

Although music also served as an important aspect of freshman Taryn Lotak's life, she didn't rely on it for relaxation. While her friends listened mostly to rap like Ariel, Lotak followed her sister's example and enjoyed the sounds of punk bands such as Sublime.

Some students didn't appreciate the musical groups that had formed recently, according to Darryl Wenner, freshman, who listened to mostly metal and rock.

"I usually listened to music while doing nothing," Darryl said. "It kept me interested in my music because I never heard it much on the radio. I didn't like listening to the radio because popular new music didn't capture my interest."

Having played trumpet since fifth grade, Darryl grew to realize how much music brought to his life. On the other hand, Brennan Drosos, freshman, felt that he should concentrate on other things in his life instead of music.

"I listened to music a lot, but I had so many more things that were important to me," Brennan said. "As weird as it sounded, I would have rather concen-

trated my time on school or hanging out with my friends instead."

The Grateful Dead, AC/DC and Phish, Brennan's favorite bands, helped him to relax after a stressful day at school. The genre of music that a person listened to told a lot about his or her personality, according to Brennan.

"Some people who listened to rap were really mean," Brennan said. "I noticed that they were more cocky. But my music just made me feel mellow, and that was how I generally was."

From making their own music to humming along to the radio in the morning, students used music as entertainment outlets in their lives. Flipping through his collection of over 40 CDs, Ariel searched for the perfect remedy to complement his mood.

keeping the **BEAT**

Freshmen reveal their musical differences in a variety of genres by picking their favorite radio stations.

25%
103.5 FM

22%
92.3 FM

12%
94.7 FM

22%
101.1 FM

18%
96.3 FM

7%
101.9 FM

new BEATS

Using his newly acquired drum set, Eric Wallace, freshman, tries to accustom himself to the differences in technique from the percussion instruments in band. As a band member since fifth grade, Eric wanted to pick up a new talent when he purchased the drum set from a friend. "Both of my brothers and my sister played music," Eric said. "We were hoping to form a band together for Battle of the Bands at school."



113 freshmen surveyed

Linda Landowski
Lyndsay Langbehn
Sarah-Anne Lanman
Sarah Laymon
Dennis Lee
Paul Leitelt
Sondra Leslie
Sean Loto

Dan Lewis
Sarah Liszka
Theodore Liu
Todd Loden
Eli Lopez
Ian Lopez
Keith Lorenz
Patrick Los





Taryn Lotak
Jay Lucas
Paul Malayer
Christopher Maloney
Benjamin Mann
Bill Marinakos
Kristina Marini
Kimberly Markovich

Mike Mashura
Ashley McNabney
Anne McShane
Alfonso Menchaca
Elise Miller
Joshua Miller
Steve Millies
Kristen Moran

Nick Murphy
Krystle Murzyn
Steven Mustain
Rachal Myszak
Brahim Najmuddin
Kavita Nana
Julie Nelson
John Nootens

Michaël Nowak
Ali Nykiel
Murad Omery
Christopher Ondo
Jessica Orzel
Lizz Osborne
Robert Ostrowski
Andrew Paarlberg

Sara Pappas
Nicole Parra
Patrick Pataky
Bennis Pavisian
Dave Pavkovich
Farris Pearson
Ross Petersen
Joseph Petrone

Diane Petrovic
Joseph Platck
Shawn Pizzuto
Brandon Platt
Aaron Pleitner
Jessica Pleitner
Amanda Pogach
Paige Popravak

David Porter
Necija Prasad
Rachel Pucalik
Lindsey Pugh
Gordana Radmilovic
Danica Rajcevic
Bojan Rajkovic
Erica Ranade

Suman Rao
Mack Rawden
Eric Reed
Jonathan Rich
Jennifer Rogowski
Branka Romic
Maritza Roque
Brian Rubesha

Beth Rubino
Alexandra Ruich
Giane Salvacion
Natalie Samano
Katherine Sampias
Sara Schulte
Stephanie Scully
Chris Selent

virtual **INSANITY**

As three different game systems take the market by storm, freshmen flock to stores in search of home entertainment

With his dad and brother, Justin Hernandez, freshman, set up a tent on a cool late October night. However, they posted camp in an unlikely place—in front of Circuit City.

The Hernandez family had one item in mind: a Sony Playstation 2.

"A lot of people didn't have it before I did so I became the popular kid for a while," Justin said. "But when two of my friends got it, it wasn't cool anymore."

Without their driver's license, many freshmen turned to virtual reality for enjoyment. The release of Sony's Playstation 2, Nintendo's GameCube and Microsoft's Xbox lured many students to the local malls in pursuit of one of the quickest-selling products of the year.

Playstation 2's sleek black look and ability to play music and DVDs lured freshmen buyers during the holidays.

Microsoft released its first product in the video-game market with the Xbox.

Eric Zarowny, freshman, received his Xbox as a present from his parents.

"The thing I liked about the Xbox was the halos," Eric said. "But that was about it. Playstation 2 had really good games."

Four days after Xbox entered the market, Nintendo unveiled its latest invention, the GameCube. Generally priced the lowest of the three, GameCube attracted students with its small size and wide variety of games, according to Beth Zyglowicz, freshman.

As each student looked for different aspects in a game system, calling one the best proved difficult. From price to game selection, freshmen looked to their standards to choose the best fit.

As the three campers sleepily rubbed their eyes the next morning, a manager guaranteed them a Playstation 2. Content with their evening venture, Justin and his family entered the store to snatch the reward of their overnight stay.

play **TIME**

After the release of state-of-the-art technology, freshmen choose different ways to respond to the virtual reality craze

Which system?

36%	11%
Playstation 2	Xbox
4%	51%
GameCube	None

What aspect did you look for?

18%	35%
Price	Graphics
35%	12%
Variety	Other

How many hrs./wk. did you play?

78%	3%
0-5 hrs.	11-15 hrs.
16%	1%
6-10 hrs.	16-20 hrs.
3%	
Over 20 hrs.	

114 freshmen surveyed

Aditya Shah
Kate Shapiro
Phillip Shapiro
Andrew Sharp
Kelly Shaw
Tina Shieh
Michael Sichling
Kelly Simmons

Thomas Simmons
Kevin Sinchak
Harjot Singh
Kathryn Slaboski
Milica Smiljic
Aaron Smith
Justin Smith
Rebecca Sons

Angela Sowinski
Chris Spedus
Jessie Stalmack
Kristina Standley
Kristina Stephan
Erica Stout
Kevin Strbjak
Amanda Stump

Andrew Sulkowski
Michael Svirar
Kristen Szafasz
Yun Tai
Melissa Thomas
Patrick Thomas
Colin Tomazin
Arun Umaphaty





dance CRAZE

In midair David Chen, freshman, shuffles between his *Dance Dance Revolution* mats. Caught up in the hysteria a few years ago, David and his family brought the game back home from Taiwan. "It was very different from many other games because it required more skill than just your thumbs," David said.

finding the best BUY

To smooth the transition from middle school to high school, freshmen turn to virtual reality for entertainment. However, with such closely competing video-game systems, students vary in their decisions over which one offers the best value.

	GameCube	Playstation 2	Xbox
Manufacturer	Nintendo	Sony	Microsoft
Release date	Nov. 18, 2001	Oct. 26, 2001	Nov. 14, 2001
Price	\$199.99	\$299.99	\$299.99
Top selling game*	<i>Super Smash Brothers Melee</i>	<i>Metal Gear Solid 2</i>	<i>Halo</i>
System			
	www.nintendo.gamecube.com	www.playstation2.com	www.xbox.com

*Stats from the end of March 2002



Valerie Umlauf
Ugnius Vaitiekus
Mike Van Wyk
Emilee Vandersluis
Scotty Vandersteen
Elizabeth VanWier
Aubrey Velasquez
Kelly Verkaik

Mireya Villaiba
Rogelio Villalobos
Elizabeth Volkoff
Eric Wallace
Matthew Wallace
Darryl Wenner
Justin White
Danielle Wilks

Marc Wilson
Cara Witecki
Dylan Wood
Brian Wujek
Kelly Yurasovich
David Zagorski
Goran Zarkovic
Eric Zarowny

Jennifer Zgorka
Pauline Zheng
Steve Ziemba
Jaime Zlamal
Beth Zyglowicz

Expanding their lives beyond lectures and tests, teachers let their true personalities shine both in and out of the classroom

dressed up and out of character

FACULTY teacherisms

Six weeks into the year, Janushi Dalal, junior, put her teacher to the test. After realizing that Mr. Hal Coppage, social studies teacher, still couldn't pronounce her name, she settled for one he could pronounce: "Ushi."

During his 36 years of teaching, Mr. Coppage developed a characteristic "teacherism" of pinning nicknames on his students. Others that he coined included "Mattypoo" (Matt Lewis, junior) and "Ulysses" (Candice Grant, senior).

Whenever a name popped into his head, Mr. Coppage used his inspiration to incorporate humor into the classroom.

"It was mostly for comic relief," Mr. Coppage said. "You had to have humor; otherwise, you'd go crazy. You had to be able to laugh at yourself."

While some teachers sprinkled the classroom with comedy, Mr. Steve Wroblewski, math teacher, hung posters of actress Lucy Lawless on his classroom walls, advertising his temporary obsession with the TV show "Xena, Warrior Princess." He even purchased five-inch

action figures and six-foot cardboard cutouts of Xena to keep him company and tuned in to the program every week.



lesson learned

Chin raised, Mrs. Carrie Cate-Clements, science teacher, defends herself from a front choke by her husband Tony, a trainer in Brazilian jujitsu. "It was the only art developed for a street situation and was very applicable," Mrs. Cate-Clements said.

"It was a fun action show," Mr. Wroblewski said. "It was entertainment. Everyone liked to be entertained."

Mrs. Alyce Mart-Webb, foreign language teacher, also decorated her classroom walls to reveal her passion. Through French paintings, cooking recipes and "fleur-de-lis," Mrs. Mart-Webb aimed to transport her students to a "cultural island."

"Immersing students in French culture was of utmost importance," Mrs. Mart-Webb said. "I couldn't see how to teach language and culture separately."

Teachers proved that their jobs entailed more than piling on homework. By refusing to address certain students by their given names, Mr. Coppage succeeded in cracking a few smiles.

who knew?

Match these teachers to their interests and quirky obsessions.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Pittsburgh Steelers | a. Mrs. Valerie Pflum, math teacher |
| 2. Disney | b. Mr. Marc Lehnerer, English teacher |
| 3. Hunting | c. Mrs. Nancy Hastings, journalism teacher |
| 4. Billie Holiday | d. Mr. Scott McAlister, social studies teacher |
| 5. <i>Star Wars</i> | e. Ms. Kelly Haussman, science teacher |
| 6. Cows | f. Mr. Bob Shinkan, math teacher |
| 7. Movies | g. Mrs. Juliann Acevez, social studies teacher |
| 8. '80s classic rock | h. Mr. Steve Moell, math teacher |
| 9. Tigger | i. Mr. Dave Russell, English teacher |
| 10. Purdue University | j. Mr. Jim Davidson, industrial technology teacher |

ANSWERS: 1. h, 2. f, 3. e, 4. g, 5. b, 6. c, 7. f, 8. j, 9. a, 10. d



trick or treat

In her "Aunt Sammy" Halloween costume, English teacher Mrs. Renee Kouris hands candy to seniors Andrew Lautz and Megan Schutz. "Sometimes I'd do outlandish things to show students that teachers were just regular people," Mrs. Kouris said.

Mrs. Juliann Acevez: Social Studies, Ass't Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach
Mrs. Darlene Acosta: SADD sponsor, Attendance Secretary
Mrs. Linda Adams: Principal's Secretary, Project X sponsor
Dr. Timothy Bartlett: Vocal Music Director, Music Department representative, Ensembles Director, Musical Director
Mr. Brent Barton: Westlake Education





Mr. Brian Clark: English, Ass't Varsity Football Coach, Ass't Wrestling Coach, Boys' Golf Head Coach
Mrs. Carrie Cate-Clements: Science, Earth and Space Science
Mr. Bruce Curme: Physics
Mr. Gary Davis: Physical Education, Lifesaving
Officer Jack Deleeuw: School Resource Officer



Mrs. Carrie Diombala: Non-educational Aide
Mrs. Sue Durkin: Composition, French, German
Ms. Dawn Fessler: Government, Girls' Tennis Coach
Mr. Carl Fields: Ceramics, Sophomore Class sponsor
Mrs. Carol Florence: Guidance Counselor



Mr. Don Fortner: Business, Economics, Business Department chair, Speech and Debate Coach, Ass't Girls' Volleyball Coach
Mr. Dave Franklin: Biology
Mrs. Debrah Fritzsche: Media Secretary
Mr. Paul Gee: Westlake Education
Mr. Jeff Graves: Chemistry, Physics



Mr. Mike Hackett: Health, Outdoor Education, Boys' Basketball Head Coach
Mr. Ross Haller: History
Mrs. Kay Hansen: Guidance Office Secretary
Mrs. Nancy Hastings: Journalism, Media Arts, *Paragon*, *Crier*, Quill and Scroll sponsor
Mrs. Kelly Haussman: Chemistry



Mr. Larry Hautzinger: Chemistry, Geometry
Mr. Arthur Haverstock: Biology
Mrs. Linda Haynes: Art, Art Department chair, Art Club sponsor
Ms. Lisa Homer: Math, Senior Class sponsor
Mrs. Cindy Houck: Westlake Education



Mrs. Dessie Kammer: Guidance Counselor
Mr. Larry Keilman: Westlake Aide
Mrs. Debra Kelley: Auditorium Secretary
Mrs. Renee Kouris: English, Technical Theater, Theater Arts
Ms. Becky Ladd: English, Speech Coach

Mr. Marc Lehnerer: English, World Literature, Speech, Technical Theater, Speech Coach

Mrs. Andi Lemon: Westlake Education

Mrs. Linda Lemon: English
Mr. Kent Lewis: Business, DECA sponsor

Mrs. Jennifer Luksich: Spanish, Spanish Club sponsor, Freshman Girls' Basketball Coach, Aquarium Club sponsor

Mrs. Sandy Madsen: French, English, Composition

Ms. Paula Malinski: Physical Education

Mr. Leroy Marsh: Health Education, Weight Training, Varsity Football Head Coach

Mrs. Alyce Mart-Webb: French, French Club sponsor

Mr. Scott McAlister: Economics, Government, Ass't Varsity Football Coach, Ass't Girls' Track Coach

Mr. Rob McCall: English, Ass't Varsity Football, Ass't Girls' Track Coach

Mrs. Eileen Meier: German, German Club sponsor

Mrs. Nancy Newcomb: Business, Computer Applications, Freshman Class sponsor

Mrs. Lori Nicholas: Media Specialist
Mrs. Kathy Olivotto: Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Suzanne Owen: Media Specialist
Ms. Valerie Pflum: Math, Junior Class sponsor, Ping Pong Club sponsor

Mrs. Jackie Podkul: Algebra, Geometry, Senior Class sponsor

Mrs. Patricia Premetz: Pre-Calculus, Math Department chair

Mrs. Marilyn Rizzo: Family and Consumer Science, Foods

Mr. David Russell: English, Creative Writing

Mrs. Susan Schultz: Westlake Education

Mrs. Georgia Sherman: Media Secretary

Mr. Robert Shinkan: Geometry, Boys' Varsity Baseball Coach, Ass't Varsity Football Coach

Mrs. Michelle Stan: Social worker

Mrs. Charlene Tsoutsouris: Spanish, Foreign Language Department chair

Mr. Don Ullman: Chemistry, Academic Team sponsor

Miss Beth Vesa: Algebra, Girls' Basketball Head Coach, Girls' Freshman Softball Coach

Mrs. Jan Watson: Westlake Education
Mrs. Jody Weiss: English



tired excuses

After duping their teachers time and again, students find they can no longer trick them so easily.

Studentism #1: forgetting to turn in homework

"I had a kid say, 'You're not going to believe what happened. When I opened my locker, the assignment was on the top shelf. But the locker fell out of its casing in the wall; and when I pushed it back in, my assignment fell behind it.'"

Mrs. Pat Premetz,
Math Department chair

Studentism #2: cheating on a quiz or a test

"The most embarrassing time was when a kid had a cheat sheet between his legs. I said, 'Stand up'; and he wouldn't. Then I told him I'd reach in there, and he did."

Mrs. Renee Kouris,
English teacher

Studentism #3: plagiarizing

"My favorite was when someone printed a paper from online in the library. I picked it up and kept it. Three or four days later I got four copies of the paper turned in as original works."

Mr. Marc Lechnerer,
English teacher

Gaining knowledge every step of the way, teachers pick up on the needs and amusing habits of students

coming full circle

FACULTY studentisms

Without even setting foot inside a grocery store, Mr. Chris Miller, social studies teacher, stocked up on chips and salsa. He simply walked up to someone's front door, knocked three times and asked for it.

Of course, he didn't just walk up to any house on the street. When he noticed someone absent on the due date of a major assignment, he tracked down the student himself—a threat no one would believe until Mr. Miller clung to his word.

To compensate for his driving time Mr. Miller requested a snack. The jars of white corn and black bean salsa in his cabinet confirmed a common "studentism."

"Whenever a big assignment was due, certain people were always absent," Mr. Miller said. "They put it off so long that they couldn't get it done. I just wanted them to do the assignment. If they didn't, they wouldn't learn anything."

Teachers dug for ways to help students learn. After 30 years in the field, Mrs. Mary Yorke, English teacher, shared one of her observations about teaching.

"Instead of having students sit there passively, you needed to make their roles more active and get them involved while just guiding them," Mrs. Yorke said.

Despite teachers' good intentions, students racked up an assortment of reasons for not turning in their homework on time. Even young teachers heard the most outlandish excuses.

"One kid said he got carjacked and his backpack was in the car," Mrs. Juliann Acevez, social studies teacher, said. "Then his mom called to confirm what happened."

By watching students each day, teachers accumulated a long list of studentisms. To break the old habit of handing in homework late, Mr. Miller never hesitated to pay his students a visit.



direct effect

Demonstrating vowel shapes, Dr. Timothy Bartlett, music teacher, warms up Concert Choir. With years of experience under his belt, Dr. Bartlett knew which techniques benefited vocal students.



Mrs. Marsha Weiss: Guidance Counselor
Mr. Mike Wells: Biology, Earth and Space Science, Student Government sponsor
Mrs. Leigh Ann Westland: English
Mrs. Anne Whiteley: Spanish
Mr. Bill Woods: Band, Instructional Keyboard, Jazz Band, Band Director

Mr. Steve Wroblewski: Geometry, Computer Programming
Mrs. Violet Zudock: Guidance Office Secretary

Drawing skills from their past, administrators find joys in maintaining order in a sea of teenage students

keeping close watch

ADMINISTRATION perks

Although his days as a construction worker had long since passed, Mr. Jack King, assistant dean to the students, never forgot his summer job in the steel refineries as a college student. After college, he transferred from industry to education.

"I became the glue in the puzzle pieces that made it all work," Mr. King said. "If there was a problem that needed to be dealt with, I took care of it."

Coming together like parts to a machine, members of the administrative staff carried out their own responsibilities to make sure the school moved forward. However, not many students realized how much work went into their everyday activities, according to Mr. Michael O'Connor, principal.

"For every teacher position that became open, it took hours and hours of work to go through all the different candidates for the job," Mr. O'Connor

said. "Sometimes kids and parents misjudged an administrator's motivation for some decisions we made."

Despite the tedious amount of time spent on improving and perfecting the school, a number of faculty members saw definite advantages in their job.

"I was lucky in the respect that I didn't have to deal with the disciplinary aspects of students," Mr. Larry Brechner, auditorium director, said. "I got to work with some of the best students in the school in a very positive way."

From debates over the curriculum to keeping student conduct in check, the school administration aimed for its ultimate goal of providing the optimum educational environment for students.

After balancing college with his job in the steel mills, Mr. King finally began his teaching career, which led to his administrative position. This time, though, he wore a tie instead of a tool belt.

learning the ropes

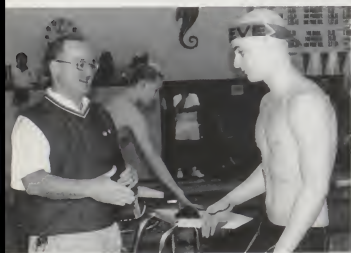
Using his experience as a math teacher, Mr. Steve Tripfenfeldas, assistant principal, helps Josh Levin, junior, with homework. "[Mr. Tripfenfeldas] always helped me out when I needed a break," Josh said.

all shook up

After winning the 100 back at Sectionals, Matt Lewis, junior, shakes athletic director Mr. Mike Smith's hand. "It showed that more people than just our parents cared how we swam," Matt said.

food for thought

During lunch, Mr. Jack King, assistant dean to the students, chats with juniors Victor Zerngast, Mario Zerngast and Art Insurriaga. "I felt that the students could trust me if they had any type of problem," Mr. King said.





Mr. William Pfister,
superintendent of schools



Mr. Richard Sopko,
assistant superintendent



Dr. Kevin McCaffrey,
assistant to the superintendent



School Board (front row) Mrs. Carrie Wadas, Vice President, Mrs. Judith Florczak, member (back row) Mr. John Friend, member, Mr. Lawrence Kocal, President, Mr. David Schneider, Secretary

time out

During a boys' basketball game, Mrs. Pat Premetz, Math Department Chair, and Mr. Michael O'Connor, principal, discuss their day. "One main disadvantage of being an administrator was that your time just got eaten up," Mr. O'Connor said.



Sophomore Sara Dobrinich and junior Raechelle Medellin

stand and deliver

To combat the negative "Funster Munster" label, you unearthed the town's standards and **painted** the home to 21,511 with vibrant color. By benefiting from and giving to the community, you spread the spirit of **code red**.

- Dressed in a red and white candy striper's smock, you picked up prescriptions, filled water jugs and cheered up a 76-year-old lady recovering from hip surgery in Rehabilitation at Community Hospital.
- When snow finally arrived after an unseasonably warm January, some complained about shoveling driveways as you grabbed your sled and scampered off to Mt. Trashmore, the towering garbage pile perfect for a smooth toboggan ride.
- While the town embarked on a \$60,000 project to remodel the Fran Lin bridge, the 12-week glitch in your routine forced you to deal with the annoyance and find alternate routes to school.
- Instead of sleeping in until noon on Sundays, you voluntarily woke up at 8 a.m. to teach first graders in Sunday school at one of the town's 19 churches.

Through volunteering and working, you fostered the community's growth; and in exchange the town rewarded you with an array of things to do. Given the right tools, you chose to **paint the town red**.

“I got an understanding of how music could touch those around me. I was happy to be the one that made them feel that way.”

Sara Dobrinich, sophomore

a touch of red

Balanced carefully on a ladder, Ryan Miller, junior, helps his Technical Theater class set up a Christmas tree to decorate the auditorium lobby for community and school use. On a half day, freshmen Ashley Alters, Angela Sowinski, Mariann Gornal and Danica Rajcevic grab a bite at Subway. To help her mother's client, Julie Sufana, senior, plays "Penguin Shuffle" with a child with Down's syndrome. Focused on the perfect move, Mr. Jeff Graves, science teacher, plays chess at the Munster Public Library. "As part of the community and not the school, Chess Club allowed more kids to participate," Mr. Graves said.



Munster Hockey



Munster Hockey (front row) Grant Burdeau, Bryan Kowalczyk, Steve Desancic, Joel Moosmiller, Tom Newman (second row) Coach Keith Tracy, Brian Tepper, Chris Barnes, Steve Sochacki, Jim Sunderland, Phil Kompare, John Semko, Ben Massie, Justin Libak, Mike Pryzbylski

SIHCA VARSITY A LEAGUE

Munster	Opponent	
0	Lincoln-Way East	6
3	Portage	6
2	TF South	3
9	Hobart-Valpo	1
4	Lake Central	3
5	TF South	12
1	Lincoln-Way East	7
3	Portage	1
3	Bishop Noll	2
4	Crown Point	3
4	Crown Point	3
4	Portage	2
10	Hobart-Valpo	4
4	Bishop Noll	3
1	Lake Central	5
0	Lincoln-Way East	11

Record: 9-7-0

Fourth Place Varsity "A"

Team MVP

Steve Desancic

Offensive MVP

Bryan Kowalczyk

Defensive MVP

Joel Moosmiller

Goalie MVP

Tom Newman

Most Improved Player

Ben Massie

Best Mental Attitude

Justin Libak

Best Defensive Forward

Jim Sunderland

Playmaker

Steve Sochacki

Pride, Hustle, Desire

Mike Markovich

2002 ISHSHA CLASS A TIER II

STATE TOURNAMENT

Munster	Opponent	
1	Bishop Noll	1
4	Penn Black	0
6	Hamilton County	4
0	Cathedral Chatard	4

Class A Tier II Second Place

SIHCA Leauge All Stars: Bryan Kowalczyk, Joel Moosmiller, Steve Desancic

ISHSHA Academic All-State Team 2002: Bryan Kowalczyk

2002 Senior Band Members senior salute



Senior Band Members (*front row*) Kyle Bieda, Chris Pykosz, Kevin Wadycki (*second row*) Katie Kooy, Rosey Petrone, Nick Bularzik, Adam Wallace, Ray Fandl (*back row*) Kellie Creighton, Sean Pikosz, Lee Coduti

Congratulations 2002 Senior Band Members!

The Band Backers

Tim Webb and Adam Wesolowski senior salute



Congratulations, Webb
and Weasel!

Look how far you've
come!

Love,
Your Parents

WORKING WORLD

Lea Puplito, senior



Senior game advisor

•Place of employment:

Game Stop

•Employed for: one year

•Wage: \$7 per hour

•Hours per week: 15-20

•Why did you get involved?

"I liked video games a lot, so I thought it would be really cool to work at a store that sold them."

•What kind of training did your job require?

"They gave you a week of training on the registers. When I first got the job, people asked me things, but I didn't know what to do because it took me a while to figure out the computers."

•What was the hardest part of your job?

"Dealing with some of the guys that came in. Just because I was a girl, some guys asked me if I actually knew anything about video games."

Adam Tepper
senior salute

Adam,
Great job! Your
future is bright. Keep
up the good work!

Love,
Mom and Mark

Jessica Wilks
senior salute

Dearest Jessica,
Your family and friends
have had the good fortune
to witness the splendid
growth and maturation that
you have shown us. Good
luck to you and your
classmates as you continue
your quest for knowledge.

With all of our love,
Mom, Dad and Danielle

Jeremy Pozdzał
senior salute

Congratulations,
Jeremy! We are so
proud of you and all of
your accomplishments
as you graduate. May all
your future dreams
come true!

Love Always,
Mom, Beata, Maligosa,
Grandma and Grandpa



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flowers"

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Across From the Highland Post Office

Matthew Mikels
senior salute

Matt,
Your graduation reminds us
of a quote from Mark Twain:

"I have never let my
schooling interfere with my
education."

Continue your education.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Kate

Jason Szanyi
senior salute



Congratulations and
Best Wishes! Good luck
at Northwestern. We're
very proud of all that
you've accomplished in
such a short time!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Ryan,
Ashley, Cali and Candy

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934-9800



8230 Hohman Ave.
Munster
836-5870



money matters

Dropping by American Savings FSB after school to make a withdrawal, juniors Chris Carlos and Jaime Shapiro chat with friendly tellers Sara Meeks

and Shayne Posey at the front desk. Numerous members of the community trusted American Savings to keep their savings deposits safe as well as to provide a reliable source for checking accounts.

 **MEMBER**
US BANKING ALLIANCE

Ed Briganti
senior salute



Ed, way to go!
The road of life
awaits you...
Good luck!
Love,
Mom

P.S.
Congratulations on
your graduation!
Love,
Granny & Papa

Cynthia-Jayne Wisniewski
senior salute

Congratulations dearest
Cindy! We have been blessed
to have such a loving, kind and
devoted daughter. We are very
proud of you, and we love you
very much. May God bless you
always and may all your dreams
come true. Good luck at St.
Mary's College!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Jenny, Annie,
Gina, Michael and Matthew



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CONGRATULATIONS, SENIORS! WE LOVE YOU, JODI ♥

Best wishes to the Class of 2002

Robert and Linda Rosenthal
("Rambunctious Rob" and "Earth Mom")

Sean Pikosz
senior salute



Sean,

Congratulations on your
high school graduation.
We are very proud of you!
Good luck at Purdue!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Grandma &
Buki

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Thursday	9-5	Thursday	8-6
Friday	9-6	Friday	8-7
Saturday	9-1	Saturday	8-1

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Seniors!**

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Congratulations to the MHS Class of '02

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Runs in the Family

Posing in front of their latest products, Megan Maruszczak, senior, gathers with her family at

Maruszczak Appliance Sales and Service, Inc. The wide selection of appliances gave customers a variety of kitchen items to choose from.

WORKING WORLD

Andrew Lautz, senior



League supervisor

- Employed for: two years
- Wage: \$6.25 per hour
- Hours per week: 10-15

•What kind of training did your job require?

"I had to be certified for CPR and First Aid as a part of training to become a Camp Counselor. The other part of the training consisted of several meetings to discuss rules and daily activities. For my other jobs, my boss generally explained what to do the first time."

•What was the best part of your job?

"The best part of my job was the disbelief that I had about actually getting paid for what I did. My job wasn't traditional in any sense, and I generally had a lot of fun at work. I liked working with people, even the children, and playing games. It made me feel like a kid again."

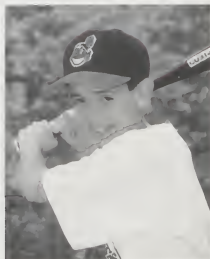
Jennifer Lee
senior salute



Congratulations, Jennifer! As you rise to new heights at Wash U, always remember to keep your dreams afloat. We love you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Andrew
and Toby

Jonathan Noworyta
senior salute



Jonathan,

Congratulations! We are very proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Joe, Matt
and Michael Noworyta

Joel B. Schoen, DDS
and
Jeff Milne, DDS

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Res.: (219) 923-4444
Fax: (219) 322-0788

Josh Balster
senior salute

Do you believe it! We told you this day would come. Four years ago, you didn't think you could do it... But you did. We're all very proud. Congratulations!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Carly,
Lucy and Grandma

Farah Sheriff
senior salute

Farah beti,
You've always reached for the stars. You were so sure of yourself at such an early age. And now that you're going so far away to New York, we hope and pray that you can achieve all of your dreams. The sky is the limit. Congratulations on a job well done.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Omar and Asim





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AGENCY, INC.



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Congratulations Class of 2002!



Hot Wheels

Gathered around Mr. Dean Rothschild's Corvette, juniors Gary Ghezzi, David Ellis, Josh Levin, Adam Rothschild, Gabe

Culberg, Steve Garcia, Brian Szymanski and Dan Cohen, take a break while keeping **Rothschild Insurance Agency** in mind for their future driving careers.

Paige Wagner
senior salute



Paige,

May God bless you
on the next chapter
of your life.

Dream big. Don't
settle. No regrets.

Most of all...
Have fun.

Be proud of
yourself—we are.

Mom, Dad, Lane
and Olivia

Sarah Papin
senior salute



"Luck is a very
good word if you
put a 'P' before
it!"

Good luck at
Ball State,
Sarah P!

Love,
Mom, Dad
and Becky

WORKING WORLD

Pat Thomas, freshman



Bakery worker

•Place of employment:

Great Harvest Bread Company

•Employed for: 1.5 years

•Wage: \$7 per hour

•Hours per week: up to 15

•What was the hardest part of your job?

"There was a lot of stuff in the bread that got stuck in everything. I had to scrub the pans and the bread board."

•How did you get involved?

"My mom asked me to work [for her], and I decided how much I worked. I got paid the same as everyone else. I wasn't old enough for a job outside the family business."

•Why did you work for the family business?

"My mom encouraged me or told me what I was doing wrong. If she wasn't feeling well, I could fill in."



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Candice Grant senior salute



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Love,
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critters

Shannon Harvey
senior salute

Dear Shannon,
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have much success
at the University of
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Joe Fray
senior salute

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success as long as
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wind of your soul."
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All our love,
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Molly and Ziggy

Kyle Bieda
senior salute



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you?

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Love,
Dad, Mom,
Natalie, Christia
and Sammy

Stephanie Smith
senior salute



You're on your
way to conquer
the world! We're
proud of you.

Love,
Mom, Steve
and Stacey

Elisse Elias
senior salute

Congratulations,
Elisse! Good luck at
University of St.
Francis. We're very
proud of you and all
of your
accomplishments.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Brad

Jessica Wilson
senior salute

Congratulations,
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you Linnie!

Love,
Mom, Dad & Marc

Dan Kohnen
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senior salute

Congratulations,
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luck at Purdue. May
all your future
dreams come true!
You are the best!
Love always,
Mom, Dad and
Nicole

Kara Williams
senior salute



You've come a long
way baby.

Best wishes for a
successful future!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Lauren
and Ryan

Matt Guanzon
senior salute

Congratulations,
Matt! You have
made us proud, and
we know you will
continue to do well
in the future. God
bless you always.
All our love,
Mom, Dad,
Christina and Anna

Daniel Larson
senior salute

We are so proud of the
young man you've
become. There is
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and Alex

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Seated at the secretary's desk, sophomores Nancy Bielfeldt and Jill Hanrahan work at Raymond James & Associates,

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WORKING WORLD

Lindsay Baranowski, senior



First-Grade CCD Teacher

- Location: St. Thomas More
- Employed for: Two years
- Wage: \$125 every nine weeks
- Hours per week: Two

•How did you get involved?

"I went to St. Thomas More, and my mom taught eighth grade. I loved little kids and was thinking of being a teacher, so I thought it'd be a good opportunity."

•What kind of training did your job require?

"There were catechist training certificates for continuing education classes. They taught you techniques for how to keep the topic of religion interesting."

•What was the hardest part of your job?

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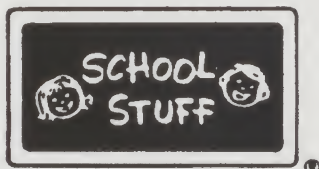
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WORKING WORLD

Jonathan Funston, freshman



Newspaper delivery boy

- Employed for: 1.5 years
- Wage: \$250 per month
- Hours per week: Seven

• Why did you get involved?

"The Times offered \$4,000 in scholarship money if you worked there for five years."

• What kind of training did your job require?

"None. My boss just gave me a list of houses to go to, and I just followed what my sister did [on her route]."

• What was the hardest part of your job?

"Waking up at 4:45 a.m. on weekdays and 5:45 a.m. on weekends."

• What did you do with your earnings?

"Most of my money was put in a savings account for a car and somewhat for college."

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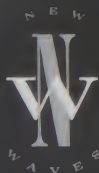
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Food Fix

Out to eat for the evening, '01 alumnae Lindsay Holajter and Michelle Sopher contemplate what dishes they would like to order from an extensive menu of delicious Italian food at Sanfratello's Pizza.



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seniors Farah Sheriff, Jason Szanyi, Jennifer Lee and Candice Grant and sophomore Rachel Anderson celebrate after completing another deadline.

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WORKING WORLD

Hall Tselakos, sophomore



waitress

•Place of employment:

Muse Café

•Employed for: two months

•Wage: \$5.75 per hour plus tips

•Hours per week: 20-30

•Why did you get involved?

"I started because I wanted extra money, but I really enjoyed it. That was why I was still there."

•What kind of training did your job require?

"I spent about a week with people who had been working there and could help me."

•What was the hardest part of your job?

"When it got really busy, you had to multi-task because there was usually only one person working, especially at the night shifts."

•What was the best part?

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All Shook Up

With baskets of burgers and milkshakes on the table, juniors Lenny Weiss, Jon Kutas and seniors Jodi Rosenthal and Jordan Richardson chow down on their meal at

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WORKING WORLD

Tara Brennan, senior



Sandwich maker

•Place of employment:

Schlitzsky's Deli

•Employed for: one year

•Wage: \$5.75 per hour

•Hours per week: 16

•Why did you get involved?

"I thought it would be fun to work with all my friends."

•What kind of training did your job require?

"I had to learn how to work the cash register and make different kinds of sandwiches."

•What was the hardest part of your job?

"During closing time when we had to clean up the store."

•What was the best part of your job?

"Not only did I make new friends while working there, but I also enjoyed the money that came every two weeks."



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WORKING WORLD

Simone Castaneda, senior



Secretary

•Place of employment:

Remax

•Employed for: six months

•Wage: \$8 per hour

•Hours per week: 20

•What kind of training did your job require?

"I had to learn how to use the phone system and transfer calls and people to voice mail. Everything was done on the computer there, so I had to learn how to make all the rosters for the houses."

•What was the hardest part of your job?

"Dealing with the people that called wanting to speak with somebody right away that wasn't in. Customers sometimes wanted information right away and didn't want to speak to a voice mail machine. Some agents would get mad if they didn't hear from some of their customers."



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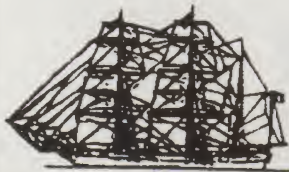
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Dr D

Anthony DiCostanzo, DDS

419 Ridge Rd.
Munster
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Loafing Around

Gathered around the front counter, freshmen Foti Koulianos, Pat Thomas and Dylan Wood munch on bread slices at Great Harvest Bread Company. Free samples of freshly baked bread invited customers to taste each kind before buying a loaf.



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•Hours per week: 40

•Why did you get involved?

"I liked coming here so I thought it would have been cool working here."

•What kind of training did your job require?

"None—you just had to know how to subtract."

•What was the best part of your job?

"Friends. I liked hanging out with my friends who worked here."

•What did you do with your earnings?

"Car insurance and extra money and money for movies."

Christine Piorkowski
senior salute

Congratulations on your high school graduation! We are very proud of you. We love you.

Mom, Dad and Michael

Kevin Kutansky
senior salute

Thanks for all the fun years we had watching you play ball! Many blessings and best wishes for you in the upcoming years in college.

Love,
Dad, Mom, Ryan
and Keri

Jonathan Silverman
senior salute

Congratulations!!

We are so proud of you!

Love Always,
Mom, Dad, Jenny
and JC

Chrissy DiCostanzo, Christina Guzik, Erin Kolb
Karen Lindemann and Jillian Martin

senior salute

Congratulations!



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Jillian

Karen

Erin

Chrissy

Christina

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Amanda Spivey senior salute



Dear Amanda,

When into our lives you
became a part,
We knew that in our hearts
you would always grow.
So as a young woman you
now start,
Remember the bright past
as toward the future you go.

Love always,
Mom and Dad

decoding the details

From the Girls' Swimming Team's eighth-place finish at State to the breakout pie fights at Homecoming, trace the people and events that shaped code red.

administrative shuffle makes Mr. Steve Tripenfeldas future principal

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Sarah Baker senior salute



Congratulations!
We can't believe
you are graduating.
We have always
been proud of you.
We love you and
will miss you lots!

Love,
Mom and Dad

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Star Wars Episode 2: Attack of the Clones thrills fanatics

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Paragon 2002

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Colophon

More than a drill...more than a can of pop...an entire year of late nights brimming with "Pub" humor and endless ideas to fill a 256 page book. From the time we finally turned to the "Dew" and decided on the theme "code red," the year brought out the best and the weirdest in all 10 of our staff members.

Starting off early, Jason used parachute men and home-baked cookies to try to lure the staff into believing it was "the worst deadline of the year." Candice, however, knew better and worked to make sense of it all and stop his scampering. At the same time, Jenni tried to tone down her copy editing that chipped away at the staff's self-esteem while Farah casually noted the emerging font prejudice.

Chris' unhealthy obsession with Bokowy developed early in the year, but Jaime always tried to lighten the mood by slipping into the voices of a few choice teachers. Pavel, however, came to the painful revelation that indexing was, in fact, nothing short of "evil."

Yet even between the string of deadlines, we managed to squeeze in our fun here and there. As either one of the few brave souls to scale the monument at the Battle of Bunker Hill in Boston or one of the many passengers of "the happy bus," we shared laughs and stories that kept us going on our deadlines.

And even when we were crying about crashed computers or whining about the time, H was always alongside to cheer us up and offer her two cents. Without her help (including the late-night run to Subway on our Feb. 1 four-color deadline),

we would have never gotten off the ground or risen to the heights that we did.

We would also like to acknowledge our Herff Jones representative, Lisa Keene, for easing us through the death of our mousepads and Don Millsap of Halterman Photography Studios for capturing the moments we needed. Another thanks goes out to Mr. David Russell who rushed us sports team photos when we needed them.

Paragon Volume 37 "code red" was printed by Herff Jones, 6015 Travis Ln., Shawnee Mission, KS 66202-2343 with the aid of in-plant Customer Service Adviser Julie Bogart. With a press run of 1,050, the book featured 100 lb. Bordeaux paper. Early orders of the yearbook cost \$40, while late May purchases ran \$45.

The cover features a staff-designed gloss-laminated four-color litho cover. The background pattern was hand-created by the staff with tempera paint.

All pages were submitted on disk, using PageMaker 6.5 and Adobe Photoshop. Our staff photographers shot, processed and printed more than 430 rolls of black and white Kodak Cosmos 400 ASA film while developing a healthy addiction to Faygo. Halterman Photography Studios in Ottawa, IL, shot all underclass and senior portraits, as well as group shots.

The 2001 Paragon, "Student by day, — by night" earned a Columbia Scholastic Press Association Silver Crown, a National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker, the Indiana High School Press Association Hoosier Star, and fifth place Best of Show in the midsize category at the JEA/NSPA Fall National Convention in Boston.

seeing red

Tipped off by countless clues within the school, the community and even yourself, you unveiled the code red that had so slyly eluded you at first. You started seeing red everywhere you turned.

- You saw red in the undying efforts to support bone-marrow recipient Amy Hayes, junior—from faculty members duking it out with the Calumet Clowns in Student Government's basketball fundraiser to the spaghetti dinner that attracted hordes of hungry people and raised \$15,000. Not to mention the student-produced videos sent to Amy during her four-week hospital isolation.

- As Prom-goers armed with umbrellas dodged a puddle obstacle course to make a dry entrance into "A Night in Venice" at Villa Cesare April 27, you spotted red. Extending the jam-packed weekend along with 246 seniors, you "fell ill" on senior ditch day the next Monday and cruised to Chicago to battle in virtual reality at ESPN Zone or simply yanked the covers over your head until your mom called you down for dinner.

- News broke in May revealing the administrative shuffle that would move Mr. Michael O'Connor, principal, to the Central Office and thrust Mr. Steve Tripenfeldas, assistant principal, into the principal's chair. When Mrs. Anne Whiteley, Spanish teacher, announced her retirement after 33 years, you detected red in the changes that transformed the school community.



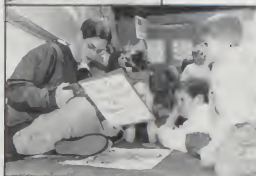
Tatjana Karanikic and Sarah Baker, seniors



“After we cut into the pig it wasn't so bad, but I made Tatjana [Karanikic, senior] crack the jaw. It was interesting because it related to humans.”

Sarah Baker, senior

”



different strokes

Despite the antics of the Calumet Clowns, the faculty team defeated them in the basketball tournament organized to raise money for bone-marrow recipient Amy Hayes, junior. **After penning** a children's story for his creative writing class, senior Colin Kern reads his story to children at Frank H. Hammond Elementary School. **Unwrapping their contraption**, juniors Natalie Dukich and Dawn Broleman check to see if the egg enclosed in the package had survived the fall from the top of the bleachers during Earth and Space Science. "It wasn't your typical essay or poster project," Natalie said. "You had to apply your mental skills and logic to see if you could fight the force of gravity." **At the Student Government blood drive**, Mr. Steve Moell, math teacher, watches as a Red Cross nurse draws his blood. **Hand in hand**, junior Matt Koel and sophomore Brooke Becchino share a moment at Villa Cesare along with 210 other Prom couples.



“ [Mrs. Renee Kouris, English teacher] took a different approach to learning. It was good for me because I was a hands-on learner. By taking part in presentations, I really learned the information. ”

Emily Yttri, junior

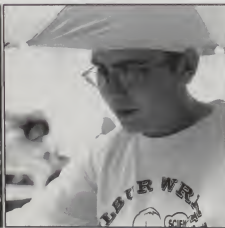
Emily Yttri and Shannon O'Keefe, juniors

As you counted down the endless days until June 7, signs of the code emerged before your eyes. You saw red in the 11 hours you sacrificed to salvage your “B” in chemistry. You saw it in the delicate balance you achieved between working nights at Showplace 16 and skipping off to the renovated Munster pool. Just as the standards invaded every branch of school and community life, you defined the standards through your actions and mastered the true meaning of

code
red

face value

While playing the guitar, Joe Rogan, senior, relaxes in his island-themed room, which expressed his love of surfing and reggae music through its decorations. During Homecoming spirit week, junior Ian Holloway sports an umbrella hat on Nerd Day. “Tape and glasses were so cliché,” Ian said. “At the beach you saw those [hats] on nerds.” Instead of dressing up for “Rock Star Day,” Kevin Wadycki, senior, wears a fuzzy Care Bear costume. “I thought that Rock Star Day was pretty corny,” Kevin said. “A lot of people liked [my costume] because it was original.”



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased by 1.1 million (Office for National Statistics 1999).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people in the community. The Department of Health (1999) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out the government's commitment to older people and the actions that will be taken to improve their lives. The strategy is based on the following principles:

- Older people should be able to live independently and actively in the community.
- Older people should be able to access the services and facilities they need.
- Older people should be able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.
- Older people should be able to live in a safe and secure environment.

The strategy also sets out a number of specific actions that will be taken to improve the lives of older people, including:

- Improving the quality of care in residential care homes.
- Improving the quality of care in the community.
- Improving the quality of care in hospitals.
- Improving the quality of care in care homes.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998 (Department of Health 1999). The number of people employed in the health sector has increased by 1.2 million, from 2.2 million in 1980 to 3.4 million in 1998.

There is a growing emphasis on the need to improve the quality of care and services provided by the public sector. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Service Act 1990, the Health Service Act 1997, and the Health Service Act 1999. These acts have introduced a number of measures to improve the quality of care and services, including the introduction of the Health Service Act 1990, the Health Service Act 1997, and the Health Service Act 1999.

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